

# ORDINANCE 2018-22

BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN  
COUNTY OF MERCER  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

## **AMENDING CHAPTER 29, ENTITLED “SIGNS”, SECTION 29-5, ENTITLED “PROHIBITED SIGNS” OF THE *REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN***

**WHEREAS**, The Cultural Arts Commission’s goals and purposes are the development of artistic and cultural appreciation and expression and the presentation of cultural/artistic events and programs, and establishment of art installation sites and venues; and

**WHEREAS**, The Cultural Arts Commission has requested exemption from the restriction regarding murals in the Borough to enhance and promote the artistic culture in the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, Any such project shall be approved by the Borough Council prior to execution; and

**WHEREAS**, The Mayor and Council of Hightstown Borough agree with said recommendation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown as follows:

1. Section 1. Chapter 29, entitled “Signs”, Section 29-5, entitled “Prohibited Signs” of the *Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown* is hereby amended as follows (deletions are crossed out; additions are underlined):

### 29-5. Prohibited Signs.

Any sign that is not permitted by the provisions of this chapter is hereby prohibited, with the following signs specifically prohibited:

A. A flashing, blinking, twinkling, animated, moving or projected sign of any type or a sign that presents the illusion of movement, with the exception of time-and-temperature displays and barber poles as otherwise permitted or signs which emit smoke, noise or visible vapor.

B. Banners, pennants, streamers, spinners or similar devices constructed of cloth, light fabric, cardboard, plastic, vinyl, or other like material, and lights and searchlights, displayed for the purpose of attracting the attention of pedestrians or motorists, except as permitted for special events not to exceed four times per year for a maximum 2-week period and not exceeding 16 square feet.

C. Any sign so erected, constructed or maintained as to obstruct any fire escape, window, door or other opening used as a means of ingress and egress.

D. Any portable or bench sign, or signs that emit smoke, vapor or noise, except as permitted in Section 29-17.

E. Any sign which, when applying contemporary community standards, has a dominant theme or purpose which is obscene or offensive.

F. Off-premises signs.

G. Signs using red, green, blue or amber illumination in a beam, beacon or flashing form resembling

an emergency light or traffic signal.

H. Neon signs.

I. Signs attached to the exterior glass of a building.

J. Permanent marquees extending over the sidewalk beyond the street line.

K. Signs posted or painted on posts, utility poles, tanks, towers, smokestacks, trees, rocks or any natural feature of the environment.

L. Signs posted on Borough property except where specifically authorized by the Borough.

M. Signs installed or painted on sidewalks, curbs and benches, except as permitted in Section 29-18.

N. Signs on abutments, retaining walls and embankments.

O. Murals and signs painted on buildings. Signs painted directly on buildings or which obstruct any windows except those painted as a Cultural Arts Commission project and specifically authorized by the Borough of Hightstown Borough Council.

P. Roof signs.

Q. Signs which constitute a hazard to pedestrian or the traveling public by obstructing access, obstructing driving vision or by obstructing regulatory or directional signs or signals, or which may confuse or distract the attention of the operator of a motor vehicle, or otherwise constitute a safety hazard.

R. Pylon signs, except as permitted herein.

S. All outside lighted signs operating after 1:00 a.m. with the exception of signs in the commercial zones. Lighted signs are those signs for which the source of light is internal.

T. Illuminated signs where the source of light is directly visible from adjoining properties or streets. Illuminated signs are signs that are lighted by an external source.

U. All temporary signs, except as set forth herein.

V. Any sign using the term "going out of business sale" or terms substantially similar to "going out of business sale" which does not coincide with the permitted time frames for such sales, as set forth in N.J.S.A. 56:8-2.8, whether or not a permit for such sign may have been issued pursuant to this chapter.

W. Signs advertising room or rooms for rent for any property in the Borough of Hightstown for which no license has been issued in accord with Sections 4-1, 13-8, and 13-10 of this Code to qualify that property as a boarding house, rooming house, or rooming unit.

X. Signs advertising an apartment or house for rent for any property in the Borough of Hightstown for which a Rental Certificate of Compliance has not been issued by the Housing Inspector, in accord with Subsection 13-8-1 of this Code.

Y. Signs advertising the rental of any room, apartment or house, unless the sign is located on the property that is being advertised, and the owner of the property has taken all necessary steps to make sure that such advertising is otherwise in accord with the provisions of this Code.

(Ord. No. 2010-06)

Section 2. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

Section 3. All other Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 4. In the event that any portion of this Ordinance is found to be invalid for any reason by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be limited in its effect only to that portion of the Ordinance actually adjudged to be invalid, and the remaining portions of this Ordinance shall be deemed severable therefrom and shall not be affected.

Introduction:     October 15, 2018

Adoption:

**ATTEST:**

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DEBRA L. SOPRONYI  
MUNICIPAL CLERK

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LAWRENCE D. QUATTRONE  
MAYOR