

ORDINANCE 2018-08

BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

AMENDING CHAPTER 13, ENTITLED “HOUSING”, SECTION 13-12, ENTITLED “REGISTRATION OF RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTIES”, SUBSECTION 13-12-2. ENTITLED “REGISTRATION REQUIRED” OF THE *REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN*

WHEREAS, the Housing Inspector, in coordination with the Construction/Zoning Official recommends that a copy of the current executed rental lease for the property be submitted with the Rental Registration and this requirement be added to the Rental Registration requirements of the Borough; and

WHEREAS, The Mayor and Council of Hightstown Borough have determined that said revision to the Housing ordinance is beneficial to assure proper compliance with the Rental Registration requirement.

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

1. Section 1. Chapter 13, entitled “Housing”, Section 13-12, entitled “Registration of Residential Rental Properties”, Subsection 13-12-2, entitled “Registration Required” of the *Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown* is hereby amended as follows (additions are shown with underline, deletions are shown :

Subsection 13-12-2 Registration Required

(a) Owners of every residential rental facility located within the Borough are required to register annually with the Borough Clerk or his/her designee, on forms supplied by the Borough. A separate registration shall be required for each rental unit, even if more than one (1) rental unit is contained in the property. Such registration shall contain, at minimum, the following information:

- 1) The name and address of the record owner or owners of the premises and the record owner or owners of the rental business if not the same persons. In the case of a partnership the names of all general partners shall be provided;
- 2) If the record owner is a corporation, the name and address of the registered agent and corporate officers of said corporation;
- 3) If the address of any record owner is not located in Mercer County, the name and address of a person who resides in Mercer County and is authorized to accept notices from a tenant and to issue receipts therefor and to accept service of process on behalf of the record owner;
- 4) The name and address of the managing agent of the premises, if any;
- 5) The name and address, including the dwelling unit, apartment or room number of the superintendent, janitor, custodian or other individual employed by the record owner or managing agent to provide regular maintenance service, if any;
- 6) The name, address and telephone number of an individual representative of the record owner or managing agent who may be reached or contacted at any time in the event of an emergency affecting the premises or any unit of dwelling space therein, including such emergencies as the failure of any essential service or system, and who has the authority to make emergency decisions concerning the building and any repair thereto or expenditure in connection therewith;
- 7) The name and address of every holder of a recorded mortgage on the premises;
- 8) If fuel oil is used to heat the building and the landlord furnishes the heat in the building, the name

and address of the fuel oil dealer servicing the building and the grade of fuel oil used.

- 9) The number of rental units located in the facility;
- 10) The type of unit being licensed (i.e. room, apartment, single family home, duplex, condo, townhouse, etc.); and
- 11) The full names (first and last) of all tenants residing in the unit, including children over two (2) years of age.
- 12) A copy of the page(s) of the current lease showing the tenants as listed on the application and the signature page showing said tenants signature(s) shall be submitted with the application.

(b) Registrations shall cover a one-year period running from April 1 through March 31. Initial registrations under this Section are due no later than April 30th. Newly acquired units must be registered prior to their rental and annually thereafter.

(c) Inspections shall be performed and a Certificate of Occupancy obtained whenever tenancy changes or, in any event, at least once every two years. It shall be the responsibility of the owner to arrange for inspections when there is a change in occupancy. Routine biennial inspections will be scheduled by the Housing Officer.

(d) It shall be a violation of this article for a person to knowingly provide false or inaccurate information on any form submitted to the rental housing coordinator pursuant to this article.

(e) Any change pertaining to this rental (rental status, ownership, tenant, emergency contact, etc.) must be reported to the Code Enforcement/Housing Inspector within twenty (20) days.

(f) Any failure to receive notice from the Borough shall not constitute grounds for failing to register.

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: May 7, 2018

Adoption: May 21, 2018

ATTEST:

DEBRA L. SOPRONYI
MUNICIPAL CLERK

LAWRENCE D. QUATTRONE
MAYOR