

Ordinance 2024-03

*BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN
COUNTY OF MERCER
STATE OF NEW JERSEY*

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CERTAIN REGULATIONS AND AMENDING
AND SUPPLEMENTING “THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE
BOROUGH OF HIGHTSTOWN,” IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A NEW
CHAPTER 10 THEREOF TO BE KNOWN AS
“BLOCK PARTIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS.”**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council wish to amend “The Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Hightstown” (the “Borough Code”), in order to establish certain regulations relating to block parties and special events.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown in the County of Mercer and State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That Chapter 10, currently entitled “Reserved,” of the Borough Code, is hereby established to read as follows:

Chapter 10. Block Parties and Special Events

Article 10-1. Residential Block Parties

§10-1-1. Permits for residential block parties.

A. Definition. As used in this article, the following term shall have the meaning indicated:

BLOCK PARTY

A party sought to be conducted by the homeowners on both sides of a public street or public right-of-way in a given block, requiring the street or public right-of-way to be closed to through traffic for a predetermined period during which a party conducted by the adjoining property owners will be held.

B. Block parties permitted. No person shall use any public street, sidewalk or public right-of-way for a block party in the Borough without first obtaining a block party permit.

(1) A person seeking issuance of a block party permit shall file an application with the Borough Clerk, together with a nonrefundable application fee of \$35.00 at least thirty (30) days prior to the event.

- (2) Hold harmless indemnification agreements from more than fifty percent (50%) of all households within/abutting the party area must be submitted with the application. A property list can be obtained from the Municipal Clerk prior to submitting the application. Said agreements shall indicate consent to the proposed block party, consent to the proposed street closure, and acknowledgement that all residents and their invitees shall adhere to all applicable laws, regulations and ordinances, including, but not limited to, noise ordinances. The agreements must be received at the time the application is submitted to the Borough Clerk.

C. Standards for approval of a recreational street closure. Approval of the Chief of Police is based on the following criteria:

- (1) Block parties shall be authorized only upon Borough-owned streets and shall not be authorized upon any street which is owned or under the jurisdiction of Mercer County or the State of New Jersey.
- (2) The conduct and location of the block party will not substantially interrupt or impede the safe and orderly movement of traffic.
- (3) The portion of the street to be closed is one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) mile or less in length and intersected by no more than two (2) other streets.
- (4) The conduct of the block party will not be likely to result in damage to persons or property nor cause serious harm to the public.
- (5) If the Chief of Police determines that the criteria above has been satisfied, he or she/his or her designee shall sign the application, indicating whether said application is approved and any special conditions required.
- (6) The Borough Clerk will notify the applicant in writing the approval or denial of the application.

D. Other block party requirements.

- (1) No more than one block party permit for the same street may be issued in one calendar year.
- (2) No block party permit shall be issued if a previously issued permit was revoked by the Borough due to violation of any local ordinances, laws or regulations within the previous five years.

- (3) The coordinator of the block party is responsible for notifying, in writing, all residents living on the street and abutting streets the date and time of the block party.
- (4) Barricades will be delivered and picked up by the Department of Public Works.
- (5) The total time the road can remain closed is five (5) hours.
- (6) Roads must be reopened by 10:00 p.m.
- (7) No block party shall be conducted in such manner as to interfere with the safe passage of emergency vehicles.
- (8) The applicant shall be responsible for the cleanup of the street immediately following the block party.
- (9) Alcohol shall only be served on private property and no one under twenty-one (21) years of age may be served.
- (10) No open flames are permitted on Borough property. All firepits and barbeques must remain on private property.
- (11) Any food truck or food vendor selling, providing or distributing any type of food, even prepackaged, must apply for a temporary food permit with the Borough Clerk at least 20 days prior to the event.
- (12) Any outside vendors taking part in the block party (including but not limited to: food trucks, food vendors, craft vendors, bounce houses, dunk tank, face painting, etc.) must provide a certificate of insurance naming Hightstown Borough as additional insured providing general liability, bodily injury and property damage coverage with minimum limits of liability not less than \$1,000,000.00.

2. That all parts and provisions of any Ordinance which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance shall be repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

3. That the provisions of this Ordinance shall be severable. 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 the portion of the Ordinance actually adjudged invalid and shall not be deemed to affect the operation of any other portion thereof, which shall remain in full force and effect.

4. That this Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication in accordance with the law.

Introduced: March 4, 2024

Adopted: **SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING 3/18/2024 6:30 p.m.**

ATTEST:

MARGARET RIGGIO
MUNICIPAL CLERK

SUSAN BLUTH
MAYOR