Mayor Tracey Furman

Council Member Darin Bartram Council Member Bridget Hill-Zayat



Council Member Conor Crimmins Council Member Duane Rollins

Released: February 7, 2020

Monday, February 10, 2020 Town Council Meeting, 7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Town Council Meeting of January 13, 2020

FROM THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL

- Local Advisory Panel (Historic Preservation Committee) Continue the discussion of reviving the Historic Preservation Committee to formally serve as the Town's Local Advisory Panel (LAP) to the Historic Preservation Commission with Montgomery County.
- 2. **Montgomery County Pesticide Law** Update from the Town with regards to adopting Montgomery County's Pesticide Law. (*Furman*)
- 3. **Community Composting** Update from the January 14th meeting with Compost Crew to discuss a community composting program. (*Crimmins*)

FROM THE TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF

Town Manager Update

PUBLIC APPEARANCES

(The public is invited to speak on any subject that is not a topic on tonight's agenda)

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, AND REGULATIONS

(Ordinances, resolutions, and regulations to be introduced or adopted following appropriate procedures required by the Town Code; or resolutions that may require discussion by the Mayor and Council prior to approval)

- 1. **Ordinance No. O-04-2019** An Ordinance of the Mayor and Town Council to Amend Chapter VII, "Public Health, Safety, and Conduct", Article 5, "Animals", by repealing and re-enacting Section 7-502, "Owners Responsible for Curbing of Animals", and Section 7-503, "Control of Vicious Animals"; and by adding Section 7-504, "Unwanted Contact", Section 7-505, "Animal Noise", Section 7-506, "Dangerous Animals", and Section 7-507, "Dog Exercise Area", and otherwise make conforming changes.
- 2. **Ordinance No. O-01-2020** (*Introduction*) Introduction of an Ordinance of the Mayor and Town Council Amending Chapter VI, Article I, "Signs and Solicitors", Sections 6-101, "Signs"; 6-102, "Town Sign Permit Required"; 6-103, "Signs in the Public Right-of-Way"; 6-104, "Signs on Private Property CRT, CRN, and Industrial Zones"; and 6-106, "Enforcement and Penalties", to identify the types of signs that are authorized and are required to be permitted, expand the prohibition on pole signs, to regulate limited duration signs on private property, to clarify that all illuminated signs are regulated in the same manner, and to make conforming changes.
 - a. Ordinance No. O-01-2020 is a re-introduction of Ordinance No. O-03-2019 following revisions by the Town Council.
- 3. **Resolution No. R-01-2020** A Resolution of the Town Council to appoint a Town Manager in accordance with Article IX, "Administration", Section 907, "Town Manager", of the Town Charter.

ADJOURNMENT

(The Mayor and Council may move to close the meeting and may move to reopen the meeting)
THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING(S) OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL WILL BE HELD:

Monday, March 9, 2020, 7:00 pm

Ordinance No. O-04-2019 – Animal Regulations

Dear Residents:

The Town recently introduced an ordinance (No. O-04-2019) that would formally adopt the County's language pertaining to the regulation of animals. The intent of the proposed amendments, in addition to approving a Dog Exercise Area (Kensington Dog Run), is to mirror the County's existing language pertaining to Animal Noise, Animal Defectation, At-Large Animals, and Unwanted Contact.

ISSUE

Montgomery County's regulations pertaining to Animals (Chapter 5 of the County Code) already apply within the Town, except to the extent overridden by the Town Code. For example, there is a prohibition in proposed 7-503(c) against certain animals (cat, livestock) being at large. This provision already applies in the Town, because it is part of the adopted County code, and so is not a change. If the Town wishes to remove this provision, the Mayor and Council can do so, but until they do so, it applies.

Certain regulations within the Town's current code have wording that is different than the County's regulations, and this can complicate enforcement by both Animal Control, the Animal Matters Hearing Board and the Town staff. This ordinance seeks to conform the language so that enforcement is simplified. The Town is especially interested in continuing to have the Animal Matters Hearing Board resolve cases involving animals, in particular, at large animal cases. The Board has appointed members who are skilled at resolving these issues. The Town does not have a mechanism to do this.

CLARIFICATION

Ordinance No. O-04-2019 proposes to include in the Town code for easy reference the County's regulations pertaining to Animal Noise, Animal Defecation, At-Large Animals, and Unwanted Contact. By formally incorporating the County's language within our Code, as opposed to including them by reference, the regulations pertaining to animals will be consistent and readily available to all staff and residents when enforcement is necessary by either Animal Control or the Town.

OVERVIEW

Incorporating the text of County regulations within our Code will prevent future complications with respect to enforcement and actual regulations within the Town. The following regulations highlight a few of the infractions that are most common within the Town:

Animal Noise (Montgomery County Code, Sec. 5-203(a)(6)) -

An owner must not allow an animal to cause noise that is loud enough and persistent enough to disturb another person's quiet enjoyment.

Animal Defecation ("pooper scooper" law) (Montgomery County Code, Sec. 5-203(a)(2))

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An owner must not allow an animal to damage or defecate on property outside of the owner's property. An animal may defecate on public property or the common area of property in which the owner shares an interest if the owner immediately removes and disposes of the feces by a sanitary method approved by the Director. Feces may be picked up in a plastic bag. If this bag is placed inside another plastic bag, it may be put out for disposal in your normal household trash.

• At Large -

Any dog is at large if it is outside the owner's premises and not leashed, unless it is a service dog, is in a dog exercise area designated by the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, or is participating in an approved activity.

Any other animal (i.e., cat or livestock animal) is at large if it is outside the owner's premises and not leashed or immediately responsive to verbal or non-verbal direction.

The common area of a homeowner's association, condominium or cooperative is not the owner's premises.

Unwanted Contact -

The pet owner must prevent unwelcome or unsolicited threatening physical contact or close proximity to a person or a domestic animal that occurs outside the owner's property that may cause alarm in a reasonable person, such as biting, chasing, tracking, inhibiting movement, or jumping.

CONCLUSION

The inclusion of the actual language of the County code into the Town Code will make the rules more accessible. Using the County code language will help ensure that the Town can resort to County Animal Control and the Animal Matters Hearing Board for help in resolving animal issues. That is the intent of this ordinance.

DRAFT Ordinance No. O-04-2019 Introduced: 12-9-2019

Adopted:

SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL TO AMEND CHAPTER VII, "PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND CONDUCT", ARTICLE 5, "ANIMALS", BY REPEALING AND RE-ENACTING SECTION 7-502, "OWNERS RESPONSIBLE FOR CURBING OF ANIMALS", AND SECTION 7-503, "CONTROL OF VICIOUS ANIMALS"; AND BY ADDING SECTION 7-504, "UNWANTED CONTACT", SECTION 7-505, "ANIMAL NOISE", SECTION 7-506, "DANGEROUS ANIMALS", AND SECTION 7-507, "DOG EXERCISE AREA", AND OTHERWISE MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES.

WHEREAS, §5-201 et seq. of the Local Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, authorizes the Mayor and Town Council to adopt such ordinances as it deems necessary to assure the good government of the Town of Kensington; to protect and preserve the rights, property and privileges of the Town; to preserve peace and good order; to secure persons and property from danger and destruction; and to protect the health, comfort and convenience of Town residents; and

WHEREAS, Article VI, "Powers of the Council", Section 601, "General Powers" of the Town Charter authorizes the Mayor and Council to adopt such ordinances as it may deem necessary for the good government of the Town; for the protection and preservation of property, rights, and privileges; for the preservation of peace and good order; for securing person and property from violation, danger, or destruction; and for the protection and promotion of the health, safety, and welfare, of the residents and visitors of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council have adopted Chapter VII, "Public Health, Safety, and Conduct", Article 5, "Animals", to govern the care and maintenance of animals in the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council have determined that it is in the public interest to amend Article 5, "Animals", to update the code, allow the establishment of a dog exercise area and provide regulations for its use, and otherwise make conforming changes.

NOW THEREFORE, the Mayor and Town Council of Kensington does hereby adopt the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL TO AMEND CHAPTER VII, "PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND CONDUCT", ARTICLE 5, "ANIMALS", BY REPEALING AND RE-ENACTING

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[Brackets]

: Indicate matter added to existing law.

: Indicate matter deleted from law.

: Indicate matter remaining unchanged in existing law but not set forth in Ordinance

:Indicate matter added in amendment : Indicate matter deleted in amendment SECTION 7-502, "OWNERS RESPONSIBLE FOR CURBING OF ANIMALS", AND SECTION 7-503, "CONTROL OF VICIOUS ANIMALS"; AND BY ADDING SECTION 7-504, "UNWANTED CONTACT", SECTION 7-505, "ANIMAL NOISE", SECTION 7-506, "DANGEROUS ANIMALS", AND SECTION 7-507, "DOG EXERCISE AREA", AND OTHERWISE MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES.

Section 1. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED, by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington that Chapter VII, "Public Health, Safety, and Conduct", Article 5, "Animals", Section 7-502, "Owners Responsible for Curbing of Animals", be repealed, re-enacted and amended to read as follows:

Section 7-502. [Owners Responsible for Curbing Animals] ANIMAL DEFECATION

- [(a) Pet owners shall clean up and properly dispose of their pet's excrement when it is deposited on public property where people walk or congregate or on private property other than that of the owners.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to allow his or her dog to be on school grounds or public recreation areas when people are present unless such a dog is on a leash and under the immediate control of a responsible person.]
- (A) AN OWNER MUST NOT ALLOW AN ANIMAL TO DEFECATE ON PROPERTY OUTSIDE OF THE OWNER'S PROPERTY, EXCEPT THAT AN ANIMAL MAY DEFECATE ON PUBLIC PROPERTY OR THE COMMON AREA OF PROPERTY IN WHICH THE OWNER SHARES AN INTEREST IF THE OWNER IMMEDIATELY REMOVES AND DISPOSES OF THE FECES BY A SANITARY METHOD APPROVED BY THE TOWN. THIS PARAGRAPH DOES NOT AFFECT ANY RIGHT OF A COMMON OWNERSHIP COMMUNITY TO REGULATE OR BAN ANIMALS FROM THE COMMUNITY'S PROPERTY.
- (B) ANIMAL FECES MAY BE COLLECTED IN A PLASTIC BAG AND DISPOSED OF IN A TOWN TRASH CART, IF THE BAG IS PLACED INSIDE ANOTHER PLASTIC BAG.
- (c) A CITATION MAY BE ISSUED TO THE OWNER OR CUSTODIAN OF THE ANIMAL FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION AS A CLASS G MUNICIPAL INFRACTION, SUBJECT TO THE PENALTY PRESCRIBED IN CHAPTER X OF THIS CODE OF ORDINANCES

<u>Section 2</u>. **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED** by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington that Chapter VII, "Public Health, Safety, and Conduct", Article 5, "Animals", Section 7-503, "Control of Vicious Animals", be repealed, re-enacted and amended to read as follows:

[:] Indicate matter added to existing law.

[:] Indicate matter deleted from law.

[:] Indicate matter remaining unchanged in existing law but not set forth in Ordinance

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Section 7-503. [Control of Vicious Animals] ANIMALS AT LARGE

- [(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to let any vicious or dangerous animal out of secure confinement within his or her residence unless such animal is muzzled, leashed and under the immediate control of a responsible person.]
 - (A) ANIMALS AT LARGE ARE PROHIBITED.
- (B) ANY DOG IS AT LARGE IF IT IS OUTSIDE THE OWNER'S PREMISES AND NOT LEASHED, UNLESS IT IS A SERVICE DOG, IS IN A DOG EXERCISE AREA DESIGNATED BY THE TOWN OR THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION, OR IS PARTICIPATING IN AN ACTIVITY APPROVED BY THE TOWN.
- (b) A violation of this Section shall be enforced by Montgomery County Police.]
- (C) ANY OTHER ANIMAL (I.E. CAT, LIVESTOCK,) IS AT LARGE IF IT IS OUTSIDE THE OWNER'S PREMISES AND NOT LEASHED OR IMMEDIATELY RESPONSIVE TO VERBAL OR NON-VERBAL DIRECTION.
- (D) THE COMMON AREA OF A HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION, CONDOMINIUM OR COOPERATIVE IS NOT THE OWNER'S PREMISES.
 - (E) THIS SECTION MAY BE ENFORCED BY THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE.
- (F) THE TOWN OF KENSINGTON RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ISSUE A CITATION TO THE OWNER OR CUSTODIAN OF THE ANIMAL FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION AS A CLASS G MUNICIPAL INFRACTION, SUBJECT TO THE PENALTY PRESCRIBED IN CHAPTER X OF THIS CODE OF ORDINANCES.
- <u>Section 3</u>. **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED** by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington that Chapter VII, "Public Health, Safety, and Conduct", Article 5, "Animals", Section 7-504, "Unwanted Contact", be and is hereby enacted to read as follows:

SECTION 7-504. UNWANTED CONTACT

- (A) UNWELCOME OR UNSOLICITED THREATENING PHYSICAL CONTACT OR CLOSE PROXIMITY TO A PERSON OR DOMESTIC ANIMAL, SUCH AS BITING, CHASING, TRACKING, INHIBITING MOVEMENT, OR JUMPING, THAT OCCURS OUTSIDE THE OWNER'S PROPERTY AND THAT MAY CAUSE ALARM IN A REASONABLE PERSON, IS PROHIBITED.
 - (B)THIS SECTION MAY BE ENFORCED BY THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE.

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[:] Indicate matter deleted from law.

[:] Indicate matter remaining unchanged in existing law but not set forth in Ordinance

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(C) THE TOWN OF KENSINGTON RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ISSUE A CITATION TO THE OWNER OR CUSTODIAN OF THE ANIMAL FOR VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION AS A CLASS A MUNICIPAL INFRACTION SUBJECT TO THE PENALTY PRESCRIBED IN CHAPTER X OF THIS CODE OF ORDINANCES.

<u>Section 4</u>. **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED** by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington that Chapter VII, "Public Health, Safety, and Conduct", Article 5, "Animals", Section 7-505, "Animal Noise", be and is hereby enacted to read as follows:

SECTION 7-505. ANIMAL NOISE

- (A) AN OWNER OR CUSTODIAN MUST NOT ALLOW AN ANIMAL TO CAUSE NOISE THAT IS LOUD ENOUGH AND PERSISTENT ENOUGH TO DISTURB ANOTHER PERSON'S QUIET ENJOYMENT.
 - (B) THIS SECTION MAY BE ENFORCED BY THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE.

<u>Section 5</u>. **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED** by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington that Chapter VII, "Public Health, Safety, and Conduct", Article 5, "Animals", Section 7-506, "Dangerous Animals", be and is hereby enacted to read as follows:

SECTION 7-506. DANGEROUS ANIMALS

- (A) ANIMALS WHICH ARE DEEMED TO BE DANGEROUS BY THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY ANIMAL MATTERS BOARD MUST BE KEPT CONFINED IN A SECURE ENCLOSURE TO PREVENT DIRECT CONTACT WITH HUMANS OR OTHER ANIMALS, AND MUST BE LEASHED AND MUZZLED, AND UNDER THE CONTROL OF A PERSON AT LEAST 18 YEARS WHO IS PHYSICALLY ABLE TO RESTRAIN THE ANIMAL, AT ANY TIME IT IS REMOVED FROM THE OWNER'S PROPERTY.
- (B) A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION MAYBE ENFORCED BY THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE.

<u>Section 6</u>. **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED** by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington that Chapter VII, "Public Health, Safety, and Conduct", Article 5, "Animals", Section 7-507, "Dog Exercise Area", be and is hereby enacted to read as follows:

SECTION 7-506. DOG EXERCISE AREA

(A) THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL MAY ESTABLISH A DOG EXERCISE AREA IN THE TOWN. THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS APPLY TO ANY DOG EXERCISE AREA SO ESTABLISHED.

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- (1) ALL DOG OWNERS/HANDLERS MUST COMPLY WITH THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS AT ALL TIMES WHEN ACCESSING THE DOG EXERCISE AREA.
- (2) ALL DOGS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY RESPONSIBLE OWNERS/HANDLERS WHO ARE PHYSICALLY ABLE TO EXERCISE EFFECTIVE RESTRAINT OF THE DOG(S), AND WHO WILL RESTRAIN THEIR DOGS IF NECESSARY.
- (3) OWNERS/HANDLERS MUST REMAIN IN THE DOG EXERCISE AREA WITH THEIR DOGS AND MUST KEEP THEIR DOGS IN SIGHT AND UNDER THEIR CONTROL AT ALL TIMES.
- (4) THE DOG EXERCISE AREA HOURS OF OPERATION ARE DAWN TO DUSK DAILY. NO PERSON SHALL USE THE FACILITY OTHER THAN DURING THE DESIGNATED HOURS OF USAGE.
- (5) INDIVIDUAL OWNERS/HANDLERS MAY BRING NO MORE THAN TWO (2) DOGS INTO THE DOG EXERCISE AREA AT ANY ONE TIME.
- (6) OWNERS/HANDLERS MUST IMMEDIATELY LEASH AND REMOVE FROM THE DOG EXERCISE AREA ANY DOG SHOWING AGGRESSION TOWARDS PEOPLE OR OTHER DOGS. DOGS WITH A KNOWN HISTORY OF AGGRESSIVE OR DANGEROUS BEHAVIOR AND/OR DOGS THAT HAVE BEEN DEEMED "POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS" OR "DANGEROUS" BY ANY STATE, COUNTY OR TOWN ARE PROHIBITED AND ARE NOT PERMITTED TO ENTER THE DOG EXERCISE AREA.
- (7) ALL DOGS 6 MONTHS OR OLDER MUST BE SPAYED/NEUTERED.
- (8) ANY DOG WITH A TRANSMISSIBLE, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE MAY NOT ENTER THE DOG EXERCISE AREA.
- (9) ALL DOGS ENTERING THE DOG EXERCISE AREA MUST BE CURRENTLY LICENSED BY AN AUTHORIZED JURISDICTION AND MUST BE CURRENTLY VACCINATED AGAINST THE RABIES VIRUS. ALL DOGS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A CURRENT RABIES VACCINATION TAG WHEN USING THE FACILITY.

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- (10) PUPPIES USING THE DOG EXERCISE AREA MUST BE FOUR (4) MONTHS OF AGE OR OLDER.
- (11) DOGS MUST BE IMMEDIATELY LEASHED AND RESTRAINED WHEN ADVISED TO DO SO BY A TOWN STAFF /CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, AND ANY PERSON AND THEIR DOG MUST LEAVE THE DOG EXERCISE AREA WHEN ORDERED TO DO SO BY A TOWN STAFF MEMBER/CODE OFFICER.
- (12) EATING, SMOKING OR VAPING ARE NOT PERMITTED INSIDE THE DOG EXERCISE AREA.
- (13) NO DOG FOOD TREATS OR TOYS, EXCEPT TENNIS BALLS, ARE PERMITTED IN THE DOG EXERCISE AREA.
- (14) NO BARE FEET ARE PERMITTED IN THE DOG EXERCISE AREA.
- (15) OWNERS/HANDLERS SHALL CARRY A LEASH AT ALL TIMES, AND DOGS MUST BE LEASHED WHEN ENTERING AND LEAVING THE DOG EXERCISE AREA. "SPIKED" DOG COLLARS ARE NOT PERMITTED INSIDE THE DOG EXERCISE AREA.
- (16) OWNERS/HANDLERS ARE LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BEHAVIOR OF THEIR DOGS AND REMAIN LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INJURIES OR DAMAGE CAUSED BY THEIR DOGS.
- (17) OWNERS/HANDLERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURELY CLOSING AND LATCHING ALL GATES AS THEY ENTER OR EXIT THE DOG EXERCISE AREA.
- (18) OWNERS/HANDLERS MUST PICK UP AND PROPERLY DISPOSE OF THEIR DOG'S FECES. DISPOSAL BAGS ARE PROVIDED FOR THIS PURPOSE.
- (19) DOGS MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO DIG. ANY HOLES CREATED BY A DOG SHALL BE IMMEDIATELY CORRECTED AND FILLED BY THE DOG'S OWNER/HANDLER.
- (20) CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF ELEVEN (11) MUST BE ACCOMPANIED AT ALL TIMES BY A RESPONSIBLE ADULT WHO WILL BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE

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BEHAVIOR AND WELLBEING OF THE CHILD. CHILDREN SHOULD BE DISCOURAGED FROM APPROACHING OR PLAYING WITH UNFAMILIAR DOGS.

- (21) OWNERS/HANDLERS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO GROOM OR BATHE THEIR DOGS INSIDE THE DOG EXERCISE AREA.
- (22) PROFESSIONAL DOG SERVICES SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, TRAINING, BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION AND GROOMING ARE PROHIBITED INSIDE THE DOG EXERCISE AREA.
- (23) UPON A FINDING THAT A DOG IS DANGEROUS, POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS OR A PUBLIC NUISANCE AS DEFINED IN CHAPTER 5 OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY CODE, OR THAT A DOG HAS BITTEN A PERSON OR ANOTHER DOG WITHOUT PROVOCATION, THE TOWN MAY BAN THE DOG FROM ACCESSING THE DOG EXERCISE AREA. APPEALS FROM THAT FINDING WILL BE MADE TO THE TOWN MANAGER.
- (B) A CITATION TO THE OWNER OR CUSTODIAN OF THE ANIMAL MAY BE ISSUED FOR VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION AS A CLASS A MUNICIPAL INFRACTION SUBJECT TO THE PENALTY PRESCRIBED IN CHAPTER X OF THIS CODE OF ORDINANCES.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ORDERED, this _____ day of February, 2020, by the Mayor and Town Council of Kensington, acting under and by virtue of the authority granted to it by §5-201 *et seq.* of the Local Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, and Article VI, "Powers of the Council", Section 601, "General Powers" of the Town Charter that:

- (1) If any part of provision of this ordinance is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the part of provision held to be invalid shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any remaining part thereof; and
- (2) This ordinance shall take effect on the ____ day of February, 2020, provided the following:
 - (a) Posted at Town Hall by the next business day following introduction; and
 - (b) Posted on the official Town website; and
 - (c) Sent to those persons listed on the official Town email list/mail subscription service; and

[:] Indicate matter added to existing law.

[:] Indicate matter deleted from law.

[:] Indicate matter remaining unchanged in existing law but not set forth in Ordinance

[:]Indicate matter added in amendment

[:] Indicate matter deleted in amendment

(d) Published once prior to the public hearing in the Town newsletter or sent by substitute regular mail to newsletter circulation addresses.

INTRODUCED by the Mayor and Town Council of Kensington, Maryland at the regular public meeting assembled on the day of December, 2020.	
ADOPTED by the Mayor and Town Council of Kemeeting assembled on the day of Februar	
EFFECTIVE the day of February, 2020.	
ATTEST:	TOWN OF KENSINGTON
Ву:	
Susan C. Engels, Clerk – Treasurer	Tracey C. Furman, Mayor
	APPROVED AS TO FORM:
	Suellen M. Ferguson, Town Attorney

[:] Indicate matter added to existing law.

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[:] Indicate matter remaining unchanged in existing law but not set forth in Ordinance

[:]Indicate matter added in amendment

[:] Indicate matter deleted in amendment

DRAFT Ordinance No. O-01-2020 Introduced: 02-10-2020

Adopted:

SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE

TOWN OF KENSINGTON AMENDING CHAPTER VI, ARTICLE I, "SIGNS

AND SOLICITORS", SECTIONS 6-101, "SIGNS"; 6-102 "TOWN SIGN

PERMIT REQUIRED"; 6-103, "SIGNS IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY";

6-104 "SIGNS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY – CRT, CRN AND INDUSTRIAL ZONES" AND 6-106, "ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES" TO

IDENTIFYTHE TYPES OF SIGNS THAT ARE AUTHORIZED AND ARE

REQUIRED TO BE PERMITTED, EXPAND THE PROHIBITION ON POLE

REGULATE LIMITED DURATION SIGN ON PRIVATE SIGNS, TO PROPERTY, TO CLARIFY THAT ALL ILLUMINATED SIGNS ARE

REGULATED IN THE SAME MANNER AND TO MAKE CONFORMING

CHANGES.

WHEREAS, pursuant to §5-201 et seq. of the Local Government Article, Annotated Code

of Maryland, the Town of Kensington (hereinafter, the "Town") has the power to pass such

ordinances as it deems necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the

municipality and to prevent and remove nuisances; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Land Use Article, Annotated Code of Maryland the Town is

authorized to adopt additional or stricter commercial sign regulations than are otherwise imposed by

the State, the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, or Montgomery County;

and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have determined that it is in the public interest and will

promote the preservation, improvement and redevelopment of the Town's commercial areas to adopt

certain sign regulations; and

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[Brackets] Asterisks * * *

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: Indicate matter remaining unchanged in existing law but not set forth in Ordinance.

CAPS [Brackets] :Indicate matter added in amendment : Indicate matter deleted in amendment **WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council have determined that clarification with respect to A-frame and sandwich signs requirements, permitting requirements, and signs in the right of way, a reduction in the landscape requirement and a revision of the length of time that a limited duration sign may be posted in the right of way are appropriate and in the public interest.

Section 1. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED, by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington, Maryland that Chapter 6, "Signs" Article 1 "Signs and Solicitors", Section 6-101 "Signs" of the Code of the Town of Kensington be, and is hereby, repealed and re-enacted with amendments to read as follows:

Section 6-101. Signs

- (a) The Town shall have the power to enforce, and incorporates by reference herein as if fully set forth, the provisions of Chapter 59, Article 59-6, Division 6.7 of the Montgomery County Code, as amended, entitled "Signs", except as otherwise provided herein. This Article is an exception to the general exemption from County law contained in Section 1-202 of this Code.
- (b) The purpose of Sections 6-101 through 6-106 of this Article is to regulate the location, size, placement and certain features of signs placed in the public right of way, and in commercial and industrial zoned properties. These regulations do not apply to signs in a residential zone, unless specifically stated. These regulations are intended to protect the public health, safety, comfort and welfare, to enable the public to locate goods, services and facilities without difficulty, danger or confusion, to prevent hazards to life and property, and to preserve and strengthen the character of the town and to protect property values.
- (c) The following sections contain additional requirements that supplement portions of Chapter 59, Article 59-6, Division 6.7, of the Montgomery County Code and, in cases of conflict, shall supersede and take precedence over Chapter 59, Article 59-6, Division6.7, of the Montgomery County Code.
- (D) ONLY SIGNS DEFINED AS PERMANENT OR LIMITED DURATION SIGNS ARE AUTHORIZED. TEMPORARY SIGNS ARE PROHIBITED. PERMANENT SIGNS ARE DEFINED AS A SIGN, REQUIRING A PERMIT FROM MONTGOMERY COUNTY, THAT IS CONSTRUCTED IN A MANNER AND OF MATERIALS THAT WILL WITHSTAND LONG-TERM DISPLAY AND IS INTENDED TO BE DISPLAYED FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD OF TIME. A LIMITED DURATION SIGN IS DEFINED AS A NON-PERMANENT SIGN THAT IS:

- (1) DISPLAYED ON PRIVATE PROPERTY, AND IS CONSTRUCTED IN A MANNER AND OF MATERIALS THAT WILL NOT WITHSTAND LONG-TERM DISPLAY, AND/OR IS NOT INTENDED TO BE DISPLAYED FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD; OR
- (2) WITHIN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY.

<u>Section 2</u>. **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED** by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington that, Chapter 6, "Signs and Commercial Regulations" Article 1 "Signs and Solicitors", Section 6-102 "Town Sign Permit Required" of the Code of the Town of Kensington be, and is hereby, repealed and re-enacted with amendments to read as follows:

Section 6-102. Town Sign Permit Required – CRT, CRN and Industrial Zones (a) THE PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS OF THIS CHAPTER DO NOT EXEMPT ANY APPLICANT FROM OBTAINING PROPER PERMITS FROM MONTGOMERY COUNTY AS REQUIRED BY COUNTY LAW.

- (b) It shall be unlawful to erect, construct, POST, MOUNT, locate, place or alter any permanent sign or part thereof, AND ANY LIMITED DURATION SIGN OR PART THEREOF [or any A frame type sign or sandwich type sign], without first obtaining a sign permit from the Town. A permit application, together with a copy of plans and specifications for the work and any required fee, shall be filed with the Town Manager or designee, who shall issue a permit in accordance with the provisions of the Town code. THE PERMIT SHALL INCLUDE DATE OF ISSUANCE. By application for a sign permit, the applicant and owner give consent to the Town Manager or designee to enter onto the property to inspect any activity encompassed in the permit as often and at such times as deemed necessary during the course of the activity to ensure compliance with this chapter and other applicable law. Applicants must provide the Town with any information deemed necessary to process the permit.
- [(b) The permitting requirements of this Chapter do not exempt any applicant from obtaining proper permits from Montgomery County as required by County law.]
- (c) Permit fees shall be set by resolution of the Council.
- (d) The date of erection of any limited duration sign must be written in indelible ink on the lower right corner of the sign.

Section 3. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington that, Chapter 6, "Signs and Commercial Regulations" Article 1 "Signs and Solicitors", Section 6-103 "Signs in the Public Right-of-Way" of the Code of the Town of Kensington be, and is hereby, repealed and re-enacted with amendments to read as follows:

Section 6-103. Signs in the Public Right-of-Way.

- (a) Except as otherwise provided herein, it shall be unlawful to display or post any sign in a public right of way under the Town's jurisdiction.
- (b) It [shall be] IS unlawful to attach any otherwise lawful sign to utility poles, trees, fences or other signs in the public right of way.
- (c) It shall be lawful to post or mount limited duration signs in the public right of way from 10:00 a.m. on Friday through 5:00 p.m. the following Sunday. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS SECTION, IT IS PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES TO POST OR MOUNT ANY SIGN IN THE MEDIAN OF A PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY. Signs authorized by this Section may not be installed or removed in a manner that will cause damage to the right of way. Authorized signs may not block or obstruct any permanent signage, [nor may they obstruct] OR pedestrian or vehicular traffic or sightlines.
- (d) Any otherwise lawful sign required by law or regulation, and signs used by a government agency or utility company erected by, or on the order of, a public officer or utility official in the performance of official duties, such as controlling traffic, identifying streets, warning of danger, or providing information, is exempt from this section.
- (e) All signs posted in violation of this section shall be considered a nuisance and are removable without notice by a public or governmental official at any time thereafter, unless said signs have been authorized to remain by the town government.

Section 4. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Mayor and Council of the

Town of Kensington that, Chapter 6, "Signs and Commercial Regulations" Article 1 "Signs and Solicitors", Section 6-104 "Signs on Private Property" of the Code of the Town of Kensington be, and is hereby, repealed and re-enacted with amendments to read as follows:

Section 6-104. Signs on Private Property – CRT, CRN and Industrial Zones

- (a) Comprehensive Signage Plan Required Before a permit may be issued under this Article for properties within the CRT, CRN and Industrial Zones, for properties occupied by more than one (1) business/tenant, a signage plan must be filed demonstrating that each sign for which a permit is requested is consistent and harmonious in terms of location, design, color, shape, size, style, material, and mounting with all other such signs on the property. Signs for individual businesses/tenants in a multi-tenanted building shall be placed only on the BUILDING LEVELS ACCESSIBLE ON THE EXTERIOR BY pedestrianS [levels of the building]. A signage plan for the entire property shall be submitted by the owner prior to the issuance of the first sign permit for the property and shall be updated to include all existing and proposed signs when any sign is installed, altered or replaced.
- (b) Prohibited Signs The following sign types are prohibited:

- (1) Internally illuminated box signs with flat graphics and/or translucent face material are prohibited.
- (2) Pole (freestanding) signs, except when \[\frac{(a)}{located at retail shopping centers and grocery \] stores with greater than one hundred (100) parking places. Retail shopping centers [and grocery stores | will be allowed only one pole sign each; or [(b)] located in the Kensington Historic District, when the Historic Preservation Commission has made a determination that the sign is an integral part of the environmental setting or is important to the historic character of the neighborhood. ONE POLE SIGN LOCATED AT A GROCERY STORE THAT WAS LAWFULLY EXISTING IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 1, 2020, BUT WHICH DOES NOT CONFORM TO THE REQUIREMENTS AS NOW CONSTITUTED OR AS THEY MAY HEREAFTER BE AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME. MAY REMAIN BUT SHALL BE REMOVED OR MODIFIED TO COME INTO COMPLIANCE WITH THIS ARTICLE WITHIN FIVE (5) YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2020. ONE POLE SIGN LOCATED AT A SHOPPING CENTER WITH GREATER THAN ONE HUNDRED (100) PARKING PLACES THAT WAS LAWFULLY EXISTING IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 1, 2020, BUT WHICH DOES NOT CONFORM TO THE REQUIREMENTS AS NOW CONSTITUTED OR AS THEY MAY HEREAFTER BE AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME MAY REMAIN, BUT SHALL BE REMOVED OR MODIFIED TO COME INTO COMPLIANCE WITH THIS ARTICLE WITHIN TWENTY (20) YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2020 OR SUCH TIME AS THE PROPERTY IS REDEVELOPED, WHICHEVER FIRST OCCURS.
- (3) Internally illuminated signs (except as provided herein);
- (4) Portable signs or flashing or scrolling signs.
- (5) Illuminated signs in the R-60 Zone.
- (6) [A-frame type signs or sandwich signs unless they meet the following conditions:
- (a) Can only be utilized during the hours of operation, on the site where the business is located, and must be removed at the close of business each day;
- (b) Cannot exceed six (6) square feet per side, regardless of how connected or viewed;
- (c) Cannot be placed in the public right-of way and must provide a clear unobstructed path for use by pedestrians to and from the establishment and must meet the Americans with Disabilities Act Requirements; and
- (d) Must be constructed and anchored in a manner to achieve wind grade certification. Examples of acceptable A-frame signs are attached as Figure 1.
- (e) Must be permitted by the Town as a limited duration sign.]

VEHICLES THAT ARE PRIMARILY USED AS AN APPARATUS OR SUPPORT FOR ADVERTISING, THAT ARE PARKED OR LOCATED ON PRIVATE PROPERTY IN SUCH A WAY AS TO BE VISIBLE FROM BEYOND THE PROPERTY LIMITS AND SERVE AS AN ADVERTISEMENT OF A BUSINESS LOCATED AT THE PROPERTY.

- (c) Ground freestanding signs Ground freestanding signs measuring less than six (6) feet in height and fifty (50) square feet in area, and including a landscaped area at the base of the sign measuring a minimum of one square foot for each square foot of sign area, are permitted. Only one ground freestanding sign shall be permitted per recorded lot. Once installed, landscaping must be properly maintained IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPROVED PLANS.
- (d) <u>Illumination (External)</u> Exterior sign illumination shall be discrete, uniform, and compatible with the architecture of the structure. The light source shall only illuminate the sign and shall not glare, reflect, or shine onto public ways, streets, park areas, or residential properties. Sign illumination must use an enclosed lamp design or indirect lighting from a shielded source in a manner that prevents glare from beyond the property line. The light source shall be shielded or controlled in a manner so that it does not generally shine above or beyond the sign. EXCEPT IN THE CRT AND CRN ZONE, On properties abutting, contiguous or confronting, or within 150 feet of, a residential property or use, all signage illumination light sources (including neon) must be turned off when the business is not open for public access or before 10:00 p.m. daily, whichever occurs first.
- (e) Illumination (Internal) Only internal, HALO, or backlit illumination signs composed of individually mounted channel letters, or in box signs with opaque face panels that utilize routed push-through or LED text or overlay translucent text material ARE PERMITTED. Individual letters shall be mounted directly to the building or on raceways or tracks attached to the building are permitted. INTERNAL SIGN ILLUMINATION SHALL BE DISCRETE, UNIFORM, AND COMPATIBLE WITH THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE STRUCTURE. THE LIGHT SOURCE SHALL ONLY ILLUMINATE THE SIGN AND SHALL NOT GLARE, REFLECT, OR SHINE ONTO PUBLIC WAYS, STREETS, PARK AREAS, OR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES. SIGN ILLUMINATION MUST USE AN ENCLOSED LAMP DESIGN OR INDIRECT LIGHTING FROM A SHIELDED SOURCE IN A MANNER THAT PREVENTS GLARE FROM BEYOND THE PROPERTY LINE. THE LIGHT SOURCE SHALL BE SHIELDED OR CONTROLLED IN A MANNER SO THAT IT DOES NOT GENERALLY SHINE ABOVE OR BEYOND THE SIGN. EXCEPT IN THE CRT AND CRN ZONE, FOR PROPERTIES ABUTTING, CONTIGUOUS OR CONFRONTING, OR WITHIN 150 FEET OF, A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OR USE, ALL SIGNAGE ILLUMINATION LIGHT SOURCES (INCLUDING NEON) MUST BE TURNED OFF WHEN THE BUSINESS IS NOT OPEN FOR PUBLIC ACCESS OR BEFORE 10:00 P.M. DAILY, WHICHEVER OCCURS FIRST.
- (F) COUNTY REGULATIONS WITH RESPECT TO INDIVIDUAL AND TOTAL SIGN AREA APPLY TO PERMANENT AND LIMITED DURATION SIGNS, EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE SET OUT HEREIN. A LIMITED DURATION SIGN OR SIGNS THAT MEASURE OR EXCEED A TOTAL OF TEN (10) SQUARE FEET IN SIZE, OR ARE

PLACED MORE THAN FIVE (5) FEET FROM THE FACE OF THE MAIN BUILDING, MAY BE PLACED ON PRIVATE PROPERTY FOR NOT MORE THAN SIXTY (60) DAYS IN ANY CALENDAR YEAR. NO TIME LIMIT APPLIES TO LIMITED DURATION SIGNS THAT MEASURE LESS THAN A TOTAL OF TEN (10) SQUARE FEET AND ARE LESS THAN FIVE (5) FEET FROM THE FACE OF THE MAIN BUILDING. ONE SIGN IS ALLOWED PER PERMIT, WITH A MAXIMUM OF FOUR PERMITS AT ANY ONE TIME. MULTIPLE LIMITED DURATION SIGNS THAT ARE SIMILAR MAY NOT BE USED TO ENLARGE THIS TIME LIMITATION. MULTIPLE SIGNS THAT ARE SIMILAR MAY NOT RECEIVE A PERMIT FOR THE SAME LOCATION. THE MAXIMUM SIGN AREA OF EACH SIGN IS FIFTY (50) SQUARE FEET WITH A MAXIMUM TOTAL SIGN AREA OF ONE HUNDRED (100) SQUARE FEET.

- (f) (G) <u>Allowable Signage Calculations</u> Signage calculations shall include exterior signage of all types including permitted neon signs. Symbols, letters and logos count towards total signage. Properties abutting or confronting residential property shall be limited to one (1) square foot of signage for each lineal foot of building frontage.
- (g) (H) Applicability This section applies only to signs in the CRT, CRN and Industrial zones, except where specifically noted. All new commercial signage, repairs to existing signage, changes to sign text, tenancy changes, property ownership changes, business name changes, or use changes must comply with this Article. Whenever an existing sign is altered, it shall be modified to bring it into conformance with this chapter. Whenever any existing business/tenant/owner erects a new or additional sign, all signs on the premises pertaining to that business/tenant/owner shall be modified to bring them into conformance with this chapter. Any pole sign lawfully existing immediately prior to September 1, 2009 that did not conform to the requirements of this section on that date shall be removed or modified to come into compliance with this article. Signs installed by the Town of Kensington or signs at fire stations and public libraries and schools, any sign required by law or regulation by a governmental agency or utility company erected by, or on the order of, a public officer or utility official in the performance of official duties, such as signs controlling traffic, identifying streets, warning of danger, or providing information, are exempt from This section, but not from the application of Chapter 59, Article 59-6, Division 6.7 of the Montgomery County Code.
- (h) (I) Additional Restrictions for Signs within the Historic Commercial District (Howard Avenue, Armory Avenue, Fawcett Street, St. Paul Street, and Montgomery Avenue) The following types of signs are not permitted in the historic commercial district unless a variance is granted by the Council:
- (1) Internally illuminated signs.
- (2) Neon signs or neon decorations.
- (i) (J) Interior Window Coverage The maximum total area of interior window signs

shall not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the glass area for THAT PART OF each side of the building OCCUPIED BY THE PREMISES OR UNIT, MINUS THE AREA OF ANY PERMANENT WINDOW SIGNS.

- -(j) (K) Permitted pole signs Permitted pole signs shall include a landscaped area at the base of the sign measuring a minimum of one square foot for each square foot of sign area. Once installed, landscaping must be properly maintained IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPROVED PLANS.
- (k) (L) <u>Variance Procedure</u> If a signage permit application is denied by the Town, an applicant may seek a Variance from this section within 15 days of the date of denial. A variance may not be granted for the erection, installation or maintenance of a sign prohibited by Section 6-104(b) OR MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER 59-6, DIVISION 6.7. THE TOWN MAY ESTABLISH A DETAILED VARIANCE APPLICATION, CHECKLIST AND CHARGE FEES FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF VARIANCES REQUESTS. A variance may be granted when the Council finds that:
- (1) strict application of the Town regulations would result in peculiar and unusual practical difficulties to, or exceptional or undue hardship upon, the owner of the property or owner of such sign;
- (2) the variance is the minimum reasonably necessary to overcome any exceptional conditions; and
- (3) the variance can be granted without substantial impairment of the intent, purpose, and integrity of this Article. A variance decision must be based on consideration of:
- (a) one or more of the following elements: size, shape, color, design elements, location or cost of the sign;
- (b) the compatibility of the proposed sign with the surrounding property, the proximity of other signs, and the characteristics of the area; [and]
- (c) confirmation that the property and all other signs on the property are in conformance with the Article.
- (d) recommendation of the HPC if located in the Historic District and if requested by the Council or offered by the HPC.
- (4) Contiguous, confronting and abutting owners must receive notice of the variance application prior to consideration by the Council.
- (<u>H</u>) (<u>M</u>) Conditions and Revocation The Council may impose conditions and terms on a sign variance, and may revoke any previously granted sign variance when it determines:

- (1) the applicant supplied inaccurate information to the Council, or
- (2) the terms of the variance set by the Council have not been met or have been violated. [The Council may establish a detailed variance application, checklist and charge fees for the consideration of variances requests This provision shall not permit the Council to grant a variance allowing any sign prohibited under Montgomery County Chapter 59–6, Division 6.7.]

Section 5. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington that, Chapter 6, "Signs and Commercial Regulations" Article 1 "Signs and Solicitors", Section 6-106 "Enforcement and penalties" of the Code of the Town of Kensington be, and is hereby, repealed and re-enacted with amendments to read as follows:

Section 6-106. Enforcement and Penalties.

(a) A violation of Section 6-103 shall be a Class F municipal infraction punishable pursuant to Section 10-303 of this Code. Written notice of violation shall be mailed by certified mail to the property owner and tenant occupant (if applicable). Any costs incurred in the removal of prohibited signs by the Town or its designee shall be assessed to the owner of the sign and may be collected as an ordinary debt or in the manner of taxes and shall be a lien on any property belonging to the owner within the Town. For violation assessment and cost reimbursement purposes, the owner shall be considered the individual(s) benefiting from the sign to be determined by phone number, name or address indicated on the sign. In the event the tenant occupant has vacated, the property owner shall be the responsible party.

(b) A violation of Section 6-102 and 6-104 shall be a Class E municipal infraction punishable pursuant to Section 10-303 of this Code.

Section 6. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Mayor and Council of the Town of Kensington that upon formal introduction of this proposed Ordinance, the Town Clerk shall distribute a copy to each Council member and shall maintain a reasonable number of copies in the office of the Town Clerk. The proposed ordinance or a fair summary thereof together with a notice setting out the time and place for a public hearing thereon and for its consideration by the Council, shall be:

- a. Posted at the town hall by the next business day;
- b. Posted on the official town website;
- c. Sent to those persons listed on the official town email list /mail subscription service; and

d. Published once prior to the publi	c hearing in the town newsletter or sent by substitute
regular mail to newsletter circulati	ion addresses.
The public hearing shall be held at lea	ast fifteen (15) days after introduction and may be held
separately or in connection with a reg	gular or special council meeting and may be adjourned
from time to time. All persons intereste	ed shall have an opportunity to be heard. This Ordinance
shall become effective on	provided that the ordinance or a fair
summary thereof is:	
a. Posted at the town hall by the no	ext business day for at least two (2) weeks;
b. Posted on the official town web	site;
c. Sent to those persons listed on th	ne official town email list /mail subscription service; and
d. Published once in the town new	esletter.
·	Council of the Town of Kensington, Maryland at a public
meeting assembled on the day of	2019.
ADOPTED by the Mayor and Co	ouncil of the Town of Kensington, Maryland at a public
meeting assembled on the day of	2019.
EFFECTIVE the day of	, 2019.
ATTEST:	TOWN OF KENSINGTON
By:	By:
Susan Engels, Clerk-Treasurer	Tracey Furman, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Suellen M. Ferguson, Town Attorne