



# Memorandum on Proposed Uses to Permit

**TO:** Grosse Pointe Woods Planning Commission  
**FROM:** Brigitte Wolf, AICP  
**SUBJECT:** Zoning Ordinance Amendment Discussion – Permanent Makeup as Accessory Use  
**DATE:** March 22, 2024

In the past couple of months, there have been multiple inquiries for businesses to offer micropigmentation / permanent makeup services. These services have become increasingly popular for medical and cosmetic reasons; however, our zoning ordinance does not list this as a permitted use. This memorandum includes further explanation of the proposed service and language to consider permitting this service as an **accessory use** to salons.

## WHAT ARE PERMANENT MAKEUP SERVICES?

*Micropigmentation*, also known as permanent makeup, permanent cosmetics, or cosmetic tattooing and entails adding coloring to the skin, commonly applied to eyebrows, eyelashes, eyelids, and lips. The service is to address loss of color on the skin or facial hair, either naturally or for medical reasons, or seek to improve scars. Similarly, *microblading* is a similar service and is considered a semi-permanent form of cosmetic tattooing that uses a blade-shaped tool with micro-needles to deposit pigments of brow-like color into the skin.

Additional medical reasons for seeking this service are for people with conditions that make it difficult to apply makeup themselves, such as those with severe arthritis, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, or poor eyesight.

Per state policy, these services require a body art facility license. [Public Act 375](#), which was enacted in December of 2010, indicates that individuals shall not tattoo, brand, microblade, or perform body piercing on another individual unless that tattooing, branding, microblading, or body piercing occurs at a body art facility licensed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

The “procedure” is conducted in a salon or office setting and uses a pen-like instrument or standard tattoo gun. In some cases, it involves topical anesthetics to numb the skin.

## ZONING ORDINANCE LANGUAGE – PERMANENT MAKEUP

### Proposed Definition

Micropigmentation or microblading is the practice of placing ink or other pigment into the skin or mucosa by the aid of needles or any other instrument used to puncture a person's skin for the purpose of permanent cosmetic restoration or enhancement of the epidermis for re-pigmentation. This category of services does not include other forms of body art such as body piercing or the adornment of the body with letters, images, drawings, or other illustrations. The use is also commonly known as permanent makeup, permanent cosmetics, cosmetic tattooing dermal implantation, microstroking, eyebrow embroidery, and long-time/long lasting makeup.



## **Proposed Amendment**

This would be proposed as an accessory use to salons and/or medical offices in the C Commercial and RO-1 Restricted Office District. This would allow for micropigmentation to be performed as a subset of beauty shop services, but not as a standalone primary use.

Accessory use is defined as the following:

*Accessory Use. A use of land or of a building or portion thereof conducted in conjunction with another principal use which is clearly incidental and commonly associated and related to the principal activity that takes place and (except in the case of accessory off-street parking spaces or loading) is located on the same lot with such principal use. Examples of Accessory Uses are Carports, Fences, Garages, Garden Sheds, Swimming Pools, Growing of Crops, Home Occupation, Keep of Chickens, Satellite Dishes, Solar Energy System, Wind Energy System.*

Revisions would be adding a definition and including in the land use table, under Accessory Uses.