



CITY OF LAUREL, MARYLAND

ORDINANCE NO. 2050

TEXT AMENDMENT NO. 269

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF LAUREL, MARYLAND TO AMEND THE UNIFIED LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE, CHAPTER 20, “LAND DEVELOPMENT AND SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS,” SECTION 20-22.73, “BODY ART ESTABLISHMENTS” AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

Sponsored by Councilmember James Kole

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland adopted City Ordinance No. 1896, on January 9, 2017, approving a Unified Land Development Code Section 20-22.73 (“Land Development Code”) to allow body art establishments within the City; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland are charged with protecting the public health, safety, and welfare of residents and patrons of body art establishments operating within the City; and

WHEREAS, the regulation of tattooing and body piercing involves activities that present inherent risks of exposure to bloodborne pathogens and communicable diseases, requiring clear and enforceable health and sanitation standards; and

WHEREAS, the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) has developed the Body Art Model Code (BAMC) as a nationally recognized model framework used by state and local governments to implement CDC infection-control principles through enforceable local regulation; and

WHEREAS, portions of the City’s existing body art ordinance were adopted prior to the development of current national model codes and updated CDC guidance and contain prescriptive requirements that warrant clarification to reflect contemporary public health practices; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council find that certain existing physical layout, separation, access, and age-related restrictions within the body art ordinance continue to

serve an important public health and safety purpose and should be retained; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council further find that other provisions of the ordinance should be updated to improve clarity, consistency, and enforceability while maintaining or enhancing the level of public health protection; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council intend that these amendments modernize the City's body art regulations in a manner consistent with nationally recognized public health guidance without reducing existing health and safety standards;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED, by the Mayor and City Council of Laurel, Maryland, that Section 20-22.73 of the City of Laurel Unified Land Development Code (Land Development Code) is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 20-22.73. Body art establishments:

(1) Definitions

* * *

Body piercing. The penetration or puncturing of the human skin by any method for the purpose of inserting jewelry or other objects in or through the body or portion thereof. ~~Body piercing does not include the piercing of the outer perimeter or the fatty lobe part of the ear using a pre-sterilized single-use stud and clasp ear-piercing system. The piercing of any other part of the ear or the use of any other procedure shall be considered body piercing.~~

* * *

(3) *Conflict between Section 20-22.73 and Federal or State law.* In the event of a conflict between any provision of this Section 20-22.73 and any provision of Federal or State law, rule or regulation, the applicable Federal or State law shall prevail, unless the provision of Section 20-22.73 is stricter, in which case Section 20-22.73 shall prevail. Guidance documents, advisory standards, and model codes referenced in this Section, including those issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), shall not supersede or override the express provisions of this Section.

* * *

(5) *Health and sanitary requirements.* Each body art establishment shall comply with the following requirements:

- (a) There must be a separate work area for artists and a separate waiting area for the customers. Waiting customers shall not be permitted within the immediate procedure area during the performance of body art. Guests or support persons

accompanying a patron may be permitted within the procedure area solely at the discretion of the operator or practitioner, provided their presence does not interfere with the procedure and does not create a health or safety risk. The layout of the establishment shall be arranged to prevent interference with procedures and to minimize the potential for exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials.

- (b) The establishment must be well-ventilated and have adequate lighting.
- (c) ~~The work area must have a clean sink and basin, with running cold and hot water.~~ The body art establishment shall provide a separate, readily accessible handwashing sink within or immediately adjacent to the body art procedure area, supplied with hot and cold running water, soap, and single-use hand-drying materials. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least sixty percent (60%) alcohol shall be available at each workstation and may be used in accordance with current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance when hands are not visibly soiled.
- (d) The room(s) or designated area in which ~~tattooing~~ body art is done shall have an area of not less than one ~~hundred (100)~~ eighty (80) square feet. The walls, floors and ceilings shall have an impervious, smooth and washable surface. The room must be constructed in a manner that allows easy cleaning (i.e., walls and ceilings must be light in color, and the floors must not be carpeted).
- (e) The body art establishment must have a clean and working toilet and sink (lavatory). The lavatory(s) shall be accessible at all times that the establishment is open for business. The lavatory shall be supplied with hot and cold running water, soap and sanitary towels.
- (f) Each person performing body art ~~must~~ shall have ~~his or her own~~ access to worktables, chairs and ~~own set of~~ cabinets sufficient to maintain ~~for~~ instruments, supplies, dyes, inks, and/or single-use articles in a sanitary manner. Instruments, inks, dyes, and single-use articles shall not be shared between patrons or simultaneously shared between artists during the performance of body art procedures. Each artist shall utilize a dedicated work surface and tray setup for each procedure. Reusable worktables and chairs may be shared among artists only on a sequential basis, provided such surfaces are cleaned and disinfected between patrons in accordance with this section.
- (g) The furnishings in the establishment (worktables, countertops and chairs) ~~must~~ shall be made of non-absorbent, corrosive resistant and smooth material that is easily sanitized. All tables and other equipment shall be painted or finished in a light color with a smooth, easily washable finish, ~~and shall be separated from waiting customers or observers by a panel at least six (6) feet high or by a door.~~ Worktables, counters, sinks, and chairs must be sanitized with a bactericidal solution after each client. Privacy screens or separate rooms shall be made available when requested by a patron or when required by the nature of the procedure, and any such barrier shall be smooth, nonporous, and easily cleanable.

- (h) The entire premises and equipment shall be maintained at all times in a clean, sanitary condition and in good repair.
- (i) ~~Before starting a tattooing procedure, the person performing the tattoo must first remove all watches, bracelets and rings and inspect his or her hands for hangnails, cuts and sores. All cuts and sores must be bandaged, and fingernails trimmed, before tattooing. The person shall then wash his/her hands thoroughly with antibacterial soap and water, using a hand brush, before starting to tattoo. Hands shall be dried with a blow drier or an individual single-use towel. Before starting any tattooing or body piercing procedure, the person performing the procedure shall remove all watches, bracelets, and rings; inspect hands for cuts or sores; bandage any cuts or sores; and perform hand hygiene in accordance with current CDC guidance. Hands shall be dried using single-use towels or other sanitary means.~~
- (j) Persons with diarrhea, vomiting, fever, or rash, or skin infections, or under the influence of drugs or alcohol shall not perform body art or piercing procedures.
- (k) No tattooing or piercing shall be done performed on any skin surface that has a rash, pimples, boils or infections or manifests any evidence of any other unhealthy condition, is sunburned, infected, inflamed, or otherwise compromised, including the presence of open wounds, rashes, boils, or active skin infections, or when the condition of the skin would increase the risk of infection or interfere with proper healing. When such a condition is observed, the artist shall not perform the procedure on the affected area until the condition has fully resolved, and the skin has returned to an intact and healthy state.
- (l) ~~A separate bin for hazardous waste must be located in each workplace of the body art establishment. Do not dispose of household waste in this bin. There must be a separate waste bin for household waste in the waiting area and work area. Hazardous waste and sharps waste shall not be placed in this waste bin. Another separate bin exclusively for sharps must be located in each workplace of the establishment. The bin for sharps must be solidly built have puncture-resistant and leak-proof walls, and must have a narrow mouth and be sealable. The sharps bin must be conspicuously marked. Hazardous and sharps waste must be collected and disposed of by a licensed medical waste disposal provider. A separate bin for hazardous waste must be located in each workplace of the body art establishment. Non-hazardous waste shall not be disposed of in this bin. There must be a separate waste bin for non-hazardous waste in the waiting area and work area. Hazardous waste and sharps waste shall not be placed in the non-hazardous waste bin. Another separate bin exclusively for sharps must be located in each workplace of the establishment. For purposes of this subsection, "sharps" shall include needles, needle cartridges, lancets, razors, and any object capable of puncturing or cutting skin. The sharps container shall be rigid, puncture-resistant, leak-proof on sides and bottom, equipped with a securely fitting lid, and designed to prevent hands from entering the container during normal use. The sharps bin must be conspicuously marked. Hazardous and sharps waste shall be disposed of only through a licensed~~

medical waste disposal provider, approved healthcare facility, or authorized medical waste drop-off program. Written documentation issued by the licensed medical waste disposal provider, approved healthcare facility, or authorized medical waste drop-off program evidencing the lawful collection, exchange, or disposal of hazardous or sharps waste shall be maintained by the operator and made available for inspection by the City upon request. All records shall be retained for a period of three (3) years.

- (m) ~~All implements that will be in contact with a patron's skin and or blood must shall~~ be of single use and discarded after each patron, or can be completely shall be cleaned and sterilized prior to reuse in accordance with this section. as provided for herein. However, a new and sterile needle shall be used on each patron. All needles and safety razors shall be disposed of in a sharps waste bin. A new, sterile, single-use needle or needle cartridge shall be used for each patron and for each tattooing or piercing procedure. All used needles, needle cartridges, and safety razors shall be disposed of immediately in an approved sharps container.
- (n) ~~Forceps shall be used to attach and remove tattoo needles into the machine. Instruments, needles, needle cartridges, and components used in tattooing or body piercing shall be handled in a manner that prevents contamination prior to use. Forceps or other sanitized instruments or barrier protection shall be used when handling needles or needle components when direct hand contact could result in contamination.~~
- (o) ~~Safety razors with new single-surface blades for each customer or patron or a straight-edged razor may be used and shall be thoroughly cleaned and sterilized before use on each customer or patron. Additionally, disposable single use razors may be used. Only disposable, single-use razors shall be used for hair removal in connection with tattooing or body piercing procedures. All razors shall be discarded immediately after use in an appropriate sharps or hazardous waste container.~~
- (p) ~~The area to be tattooed or pierced shall first be thoroughly washed for a period of two (2) minutes with warm water to which has been added green liquid soap cleansed prior to the procedure using an appropriate skin antiseptic. A sterile single-use sponge shall be used to scrub the area. After shaving and before tattooing or piercing has begun, a solution of seventy (70) percent alcohol shall be applied to the area with a single-use sponge which is used and applied with a sterile instrument. Skin preparation shall include washing with soap and water when necessary, followed by application of an approved antiseptic solution, such as seventy percent (70%) alcohol or another CDC-accepted antiseptic, applied using a single-use disposable applicator.~~
- (q) ~~Markers used to draw designs onto the patron's skin must shall~~ be single use only when applied to non-intact skin or skin prepared for tattooing or piercing. Non-toxic, alcohol-based markers may be used on intact skin provided they are used in a manner that prevents contamination.

- (r) The use of styptic pencils, acetate stencils, alum blocks or other solid styptics to check the flow of blood is prohibited. ~~Paper stencils shall be for single use only and must be disposed of in the hazardous bin after each use.~~ Only single-use, disposable stencils shall be used, and all used stencils and applicators that contact blood or body fluids shall be disposed of in accordance with this section.
- (s) ~~Inquiry shall be made, and anyone giving a history of recent jaundice or hepatitis shall not be tattooed.~~ Each artist shall inquire of each customer as to whether the customer has had any history of jaundice, hepatitis, or other communicable diseases within the past six (6) months. Tattooing or body piercing shall not be performed on any customer who reports or exhibits signs of a current communicable disease that is bloodborne, affects the skin, or otherwise poses a risk of disease transmission through the procedure or interferes with proper healing.
- (t) ~~Single-service or individual containers of dye or ink shall be used for each patron, and the container therefor shall be discarded immediately after completing work on a patron, and any dye in which the needles were dipped shall not be used on another person. Excess dye or ink shall be removed from the skin with an individual sterile sponge or a disposable paper tissue which shall be used only on one (1) person and then immediately discarded. After completing work on any person, the tattooed area shall be washed with sterile gauze, saturated with a green soap solution or a seventy-percent alcohol solution. The tattooed area shall be allowed to dry, and a sterile gauze dressing shall then be fastened to the tattooed area with adhesive.~~ Single-service or individual containers of ink or pigment shall be used for each patron and shall be discarded immediately after completion of the procedure. No ink or pigment in which needles or needle cartridges have been dipped shall be used on another patron. Excess ink or pigment generated during a tattooing procedure shall be removed from the skin using single-use sterile gauze or disposable applicators, which shall be used on only one patron and then discarded. After completion of a tattooing or body piercing procedure, the treated area shall be cleansed using an appropriate antiseptic solution, which may include an antibacterial soap solution or other CDC-accepted antiseptic. A sterile dressing, bandage, or other suitable protective covering, including but not limited to sterile gauze, dry-lock pads, or dermatype adhesive film dressings, shall be applied when necessary, unless contraindicated due to known sensitivity or allergy, and aftercare instructions shall be provided to the patron.
- (u) All clean and ready-to-use needles and instruments shall be kept in a closed, ~~glass or metal case or storage cabinet~~ clean, and nonporous container or cabinet when not in use, in a manner that protects them from contamination. Such cabinets shall be maintained in a sanitary manner at all times.
- (v) A steam sterilizer (autoclave) shall be provided for sterilizing all non-disposable devices and similar instruments before use on any patron. Non-disposable devices and instruments must be first scrubbed in hot water and soap, and then sterilized in an autoclave. ~~Sterilization of equipment shall be accomplished by~~

~~exposure to live steam for at least thirty (30) minutes at a minimum pressure of fifteen (15) pounds per square inch at a temperature of two hundred forty (240) degrees Fahrenheit or one hundred sixteen (116) degrees Celsius. Sterilization shall be performed in accordance with the autoclave manufacturer's instructions for use. Autoclaves shall be maintained in proper working order and shall be routinely monitored through the use of biological indicators or other approved methods to verify effective sterilization.~~

- (w) ~~The All needles and instruments required to be sterilized shall be handled, so used, ~~handled~~ and temporarily placed during tattooing and/or body piercing procedures in a manner that maintains sterility and prevent contamination prior to and during use that they will not be contaminated.~~
- (x) ~~During work any tattooing or body piercing procedure, ~~tattoo artists~~ each person performing body art must shall wear clean, and single-use barrier protection and gloves to ~~avoid contact and exchange of body fluids~~ prevent contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials. The gloves and barrier protection must be changed after each patron and ~~when~~ immediately if they are punctured, or cut torn, or otherwise compromised during a procedure. Used gloves and barrier protection ~~contaminated with blood or other body fluids~~ shall be ~~thrown away in the hazardous waste bin~~ disposed of in accordance with the hazardous and non-hazardous waste provisions of this section.~~
- (y) ~~Employees shall wear barrier protection whenever handling hazardous and sharps waste. Any person handling hazardous or sharps waste shall wear appropriate single-use barrier protection, including gloves, to prevent contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials.~~
- (z) ~~All body art establishments and persons performing body art shall comply with all applicable Federal, State, County, and City laws, regulations, and rules, including, but not limited to, those rules and regulations requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA"), applicable guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and nationally recognized infection-control standards reflected in the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Body Art Model Code, as amended or updated.~~
- (aa) ~~To obtain a certificate of inspection prior to opening and be subject to a quarterly inspection by the City.~~
- (bb) ~~Hazardous and sharps waste must be collected and disposed of by a licensed medical waste disposal provider.~~

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- (6) ~~Records. Each tattoo establishment shall maintain permanent records for each patron. Before the tattooing operation begins, the patron shall be required personally to enter on a record form provided for such establishments the date, his or her name, his or her address, his or her age and his or her signature. The records shall also provide that the patron has not had any jaundice or hepatitis and, if so, the date of such jaundice or hepatitis. Such records shall be maintained in the establishment and~~

~~shall be available for examination by the City. Such records shall be maintained by the tattoo establishment for a period of not less than two (2) years. Each body art establishment shall maintain records for each patron receiving a tattoo or body piercing. Prior to the performance of any tattooing or body piercing procedure, the patron shall complete a record provided by the establishment that includes the date of the procedure, the patron's name, address, date of birth, and signature or electronic acknowledgment. Records may be maintained in written or electronic form and shall be retained by the establishment for a period of not less than three (3) years. All records shall be maintained in a manner that allows them to be readily produced and made available for inspection by the City during normal business hours.~~

(a) *Minors; parental consent for body piercing.* Body piercing of a minor may be performed only with the written consent of the minor's parent or legal guardian, who shall be present at the body art establishment at the time the procedure is performed. The parent or legal guardian shall provide proof of identity and relationship to the minor. Proof of relationship may include, but is not limited to, a birth certificate, court order, government or school record, or other documentation reasonably sufficient to establish parental or legal guardian authority. Such consent shall be documented in written or electronic form and retained as part of the establishment's records in accordance with this Section. Genital or nipple piercing of a minor is prohibited under all circumstances. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to permit any body art procedure otherwise prohibited under this Section, including the tattooing of a minor as provided in subsection (11) of this Section.

(b) *Identification requirements.* For patrons eighteen (18) years of age or older, a valid government-issued photo identification shall be presented prior to the performance of any tattooing or body piercing procedure for the purpose of verifying age and identity. Acceptable identification includes a driver's license, state-issued identification card, passport, or other government-issued photo identification. For minors receiving body piercing pursuant to subsection (6)(a), the parent or legal guardian shall present valid government-issued photo identification and proof of relationship to the minor. A copy or electronic image of the parent's or legal guardian's identification shall be retained by the establishment as part of the patron record. School-issued identification or government- or state-issued identification for the minor is encouraged, when reasonably available. If such identification for the minor is presented, a copy or electronic image may be retained as part of the patron record. The minor shall not be required to present government-issued photo identification if such identification is not reasonably available. Any copies or electronic images of identification retained under this subsection shall be maintained securely and shall be made available to the City for inspection upon request.

(c) *Medical history disclosures.* As part of the patron record, the establishment shall document that the patron has been informed of, and has completed, the required health history inquiry conducted pursuant to subsection (5)(s) of this Section. Medical information shall be limited to that necessary to determine eligibility for

the procedure and shall be maintained as confidential business records.

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- (8) ~~*Pigments and dyes.*~~ All pigments and dyes used in tattooing must be from bulk, commercially packaged, single-use containers only. Pigments and dyes must be stored in an area away from toilets or other areas with high contamination levels. All pigments, dyes, colors and any other material used in tattooing shall be sterile and free from bacteria, virus particles and noxious agents and substances, and the pigments, dyes and colors used from stock solutions for each patron shall be placed in a single-service receptacle, and such receptacle and the remaining solution shall be discarded after use on each patron.
- (a) All pigments, inks, and dyes used in tattooing shall be commercially manufactured for body art use and obtained from reputable suppliers.
 - (b) Pigments, inks, and dyes shall be stored in a clean, dry area protected from contamination and separate from toilet facilities or other areas with a high potential for contamination.
 - (c) Pigments, inks, and dyes shall be dispensed into single-service containers for each patron. Any remaining pigment, ink, or dye in a single-service container shall be discarded immediately after completion of the procedure and shall not be reused for another patron.
 - (d) No pigment, ink, or dye in which needles or needle cartridges have been dipped shall be used on another patron.
 - (e) This subsection applies solely to tattooing procedures. No pigments, inks, or dyes shall be used in the performance of body piercing procedures.
- (9) ~~*Bandages and surgical dressings.*~~ All bandages and surgical dressings used in connection with body art shall be sterile. All bandages and surgical dressings applied to a patron in connection with any body art procedure shall be sterile at the time of application. Bandages and surgical dressings shall be handled and stored in a manner that prevents contamination prior to use. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require the use of any specific type of dressing, provided that the dressing used is sterile and appropriate for the procedure performed.
- (10) ~~*Certain persons prohibited on premises.*~~ No establishment shall permit any person under the age of eighteen (18) years to enter upon or remain on the premises. Unless the person is accompanied by an adult who is a patron of the body art establishment and the person is located in a room separate from the room and/or area in which body art is being performed and is supervised by an adult. A State or Federally issued photo identification shall be required for all patrons of a body art establishment.
- (a) No body art establishment shall permit any person to enter or remain within a body art procedure area unless the person is: (i) a patron receiving a body art procedure; (ii) A parent or legal guardian present in accordance with subsection (5)(13) of this Section; or (iii) A person authorized by the operator whose presence does not interfere with the performance of body art or create a health

or safety risk.

- (b) Minors who are not receiving body art procedures may be present within the establishment only when accompanied by a parent or legal guardian and shall not be permitted within a body art procedure area unless authorized under subsection (5)(13).
- (c) The operator or practitioner may require any person to leave the premises or a procedure area if the person's presence interferes with the safe, sanitary, or orderly operation of the establishment.

* * *

~~(13) Reserved. Minors; supervision, age verification, practitioner discretion, and prohibited procedures.~~

- (a) When a body piercing procedure is performed on a minor as permitted under this Section, the minor's parent or legal guardian shall be present at the body art establishment at all times during the procedure. Presence shall mean physical presence within the procedure area and continuous supervision for the duration of the procedure.
- (b) A parent or legal guardian may not delegate consent or supervision authority to another individual for purposes of this subsection.
- (c) Each person performing body art, and each person assisting in the performance of body art, shall take reasonable steps to verify whether a patron is a minor. If there is any doubt as to whether a patron is under eighteen (18) years of age, government-issued photo identification shall be required prior to performing any body art procedure.
- (d) A body art practitioner may decline to perform a body piercing on a minor if, in the practitioner's professional judgment, the procedure would pose a risk to the minor's health or safety, is not age-appropriate, or if the practitioner determines that the minor or the parent or legal guardian is unable or unwilling to comply with aftercare or procedural requirements.
- (e) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to require a body art practitioner to perform a body piercing on a minor.
- (f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, the following procedures are prohibited on any minor under all circumstances: (i) tattooing, (ii) genital piercing, and (iii) nipple piercing.

~~(14) – (15) Reserved.~~

~~(15)~~

* * *

- (18) *Sign required.* Any establishment offering to perform body ~~piercing~~ art shall post a sign conspicuously placed at the location where the body ~~piercing~~ art is to be performed so that the sign is clearly visible to the patron, that states:

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Underlining indicates new language added.

~~Strikethroughs indicate language deleted.~~

* * * Asterisks indicate intervening language and section unchanged.

~~WARNING, BODY PIERCING IS A POTENTIAL HEALTH HAZARD. THE OPERATOR IS NOT LICENSED BY THE CITY OF LAUREL. WARNING: BODY ART INVOLVES RISKS, INCLUDING INFECTION AND INJURY. THE CITY OF LAUREL DOES NOT CERTIFY THE CREDENTIALS OF BODY ART PRACTITIONERS. YOU SHOULD DISCUSS RISKS AND AFTERCARE REQUIREMENTS WITH THE PRACTITIONER BEFORE PROCEEDING.~~

The sign shall have a white background with black lettering in all capitals, and each letter shall be a font (size) of at least one (1) inch.

- (19) *Acknowledgment.* Any establishment offering to perform body ~~piercing~~ art shall require each patron, or the parent or legal guardian of a minor, to sign an acknowledgment stating the following: "I do hereby acknowledge that body ~~piercing~~ art is a ~~potential health hazard~~ involves risks, including infection and injury, and that the City of Laurel does not certify the credentials of body art practitioners, ~~and that neither this establishment nor the operator is licensed by the City of Laurel.~~ I further acknowledge that I have been informed of aftercare requirements."

AND, BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall take effect on the day of its passage.

PASSED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

SARA A. GREEN, CPM, MMC
City Clerk

BRENCIS D. SMITH
President of the City Council

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

KEITH R. SYDNOR
Mayor