

[Use this version when the municipality wishes to prohibit the issuance of any permits for the use of Consumer Fireworks.]

ORDINANCE NO. _____ - 2022 [insert number]

AN ORDINANCE OF THE _____ [insert name of governing body] OF THE _____ [insert name and type of municipality¹] REGULATING THE USE OF CONSUMER FIREWORKS AND DISPLAY FIREWORKS WITHIN THE _____ [insert type of municipality] AND PROVIDING FOR PERMITS IN CERTAIN CASES.

WHEREAS, Act 74 of 2022, House Bill 2157, P.N. 3332 was adopted by the General Assembly on July 6, 2022, was signed by the Governor on July 11, 2022, amends Title 3 Pa.C.S. Chapter 11 (hereafter, “Fireworks Law” or “Law”), and became effective on September 9, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Fireworks Law governs the sale, purchase and use of Consumer Fireworks and Display Fireworks in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Fireworks Law authorizes Pennsylvania municipalities to prohibit or restrict certain uses of Consumer Fireworks as defined in the Law if the municipality determines that certain conditions are met; and

WHEREAS, the Fireworks Law authorizes the adoption of local rules and regulations by the _____ [insert type of municipality] that govern permit approvals; and

WHEREAS, _____ [insert name of governing body] has determined that the full authority provided by the Fireworks Law should be exercised in the interests of public safety; and

WHEREAS, _____ [insert name of governing body] has determined after conducting appropriate inquiries during its meetings and after receiving public comment, that use of Consumer Fireworks within the _____ [insert type of municipality] limits would violate the prohibition in the Fireworks Law and specifically Sections 1106(a)(1.2) and 1104(b)(5) (relating to use of consumer fireworks), and would be contrary to the public interest and harmful to public safety; and

WHEREAS, _____ [insert name of governing body] desires to regulate the use of Display Fireworks and Consumer Fireworks within _____ [insert type of municipality] limits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED and enacted by the _____ [insert name of governing body] of _____ [insert name and type of municipality], Pennsylvania, as follows:

¹ For Cities, Boroughs, Town and Townships, insert references to the type of municipality and the name of its governing body as appropriate.

SECTION 1.

Definitions

For purposes of this Ordinance, the definitions of "Consumer Fireworks" and "Display Fireworks" shall be that set forth in Section 1 of the Fireworks Law, appearing here as Attachment "A" to this Ordinance, and any successor legislation. As set forth therein, the term "Consumer Fireworks" shall not include devices such as "ground and hand-held sparkling devices," "novelties," or "toy caps."

SECTION 2.

Display Fireworks

2.1 In accordance with the Fireworks Law, a permit is required before any use of Display Fireworks within the _____ [insert type of municipality] limits. Permit application forms are available through the Office of _____ [insert name of the appropriate Office] during normal business hours. The application must include facts sufficient to establish that the Display Fireworks will not be ignited within 300 feet of sales locations for Consumer Fireworks and that the Display Fireworks will be handled by a competent operator at least 21 years of age who demonstrates evidence of fireworks handling and safety training, all in accordance with Sections 1102 and 1107 of the Fireworks Law. The application must include the approval of the chief of the fire department or other appropriate official as may be designated by the _____ [insert name of governing body] and that the Display Fireworks will not be located, discharged or fired in such a manner as to be hazardous to property or an endangerment to any person. The application shall be accompanied by a certificate of insurance in accordance with Subsection 1102(d) of the Law. The applicant must acknowledge acceptance of the requirements otherwise established by state and federal law. Permit extensions shall be permitted in accordance with Subsection 1102(e), provided the extension sought receives a renewed approval by the designated official that the extended use would not be hazardous to property or an endangerment to any person.

2.2 In accordance with Section 1105(a) of the Law, _____ [insert name of governing body] may under this Ordinance grant permits for the use of Display Fireworks for agricultural purposes in connection with the raising of crops and the protection of crops from bird and animal damage. The application for such a permit must meet the requirements of this Section. A permit under Section 1105 shall remain in effect for the calendar year in which it was issued. Sales, possession and use of Display Fireworks for the purpose stated in the permit shall be lawful for that purpose only.

2.3 Applications for use of Display Fireworks shall be submitted at least ___ weeks [insert number of weeks] prior to the date of proposed use. Permits for the use of Display Fireworks may be granted by the _____ [insert name of governing body], by _____ [insert the name of an official], or by such official or officials as are so designated by _____ [insert name of governing body], upon approval of the application and payment of a fee of _____ Dollars (\$____.00) [insert amount of required fee].

SECTION 3.

Consumer Fireworks

In accordance with the Fireworks Law, and based upon legislative findings that there is no location within the _____ [insert type of municipality] limits that meets statutory requirements, including but not limited to the prohibition of use within 150 feet of a building or vehicle, the use of Consumer Fireworks within those limits in accordance with Section 1104(b)(5) of the Law is hereby prohibited.

SECTION 4.

Certified copies of this Ordinance shall be provided to the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas and all Magisterial Judges within the _____ [insert type of municipality], posted on the _____ [insert type of municipality]'s website, and made available to the public at the _____ [insert name of the appropriate Office].

SECTION 5.

Nothing in this Ordinance governs the sale of Consumer Fireworks for the period of one year from the effective date of the Fireworks Law in accordance with Section 1106(a)(2) of the Law.

SECTION 6.

6.1 In accordance with the provisions of Section 1114(1) of the Law, any person using Consumer Fireworks in violation of the provisions of this Ordinance, for the first offense commits a summary offense, and upon conviction shall, in addition or any other penalty authorized by law, be punishable by a fine of not more than Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars. A subsequent offense under this Ordinance committed within three years of a prior conviction shall constitute a summary offense, and upon conviction shall, in addition to any other penalty authorized by law, be punishable of a fine of not more than One Thousand (\$1,000.00) Dollars.

6.2 Any person selling Consumer Firework in violation of the Law is punishable in accordance with Section 1114(2) be punishable by a fine of not less than \$10,000.

6.3 Any person selling or using Display Fireworks in violation of the Law is punishable in accordance with Section 1114(3) by a fine of not less than \$10,000.

SECTION 7.

All ordinances or resolutions or parts ordinances or resolutions insofar as they are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and rescinded.

SECTION 8.

In the event any provision, section, sentence, clause or part of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not effect or impair any of the remaining provisions,

sections, sentences, clauses or parts of this Ordinance; it being the intent of the _____ [insert type of municipality] that the remainder of the Ordinance shall be and shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9.

This Ordinance shall take effect in accordance with the Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

INTRODUCED – _____, 2022

ADOPTED BY COUNCIL – _____, 2022

_____, [insert name and type of municipality]

By: _____

_____, [insert title of official certifying the Ordinance]

ATTEST:

_____, [insert title of official attesting to the Ordinance]

Attachment "A"

Fireworks Law (Act 74 of 2022)