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BARCLAY  
1/9/2024

**ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 142 OF THE CAMDEN CITY CODE  
ADOPTING A PROCESS TO DESIGNATE ARTS AND CULTURAL  
DISTRICTS IN THE CITY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Camden seeks to establish a process for designating Arts and Cultural Districts within the City of Camden; and

**WHEREAS**, Arts and Cultural districts are special zones that harness the power of cultural resources to stimulate economic development and community vitality and can become focal points for generating businesses, attracting tourists, stimulating cultural development and fostering civic pride; and

**WHEREAS**, Arts and Cultural districts can be part of creative placemaking or placekeeping efforts which have the dual purpose of integrating arts, culture, and design activities into efforts that ultimately strengthens communities; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to remember that a designation as an Arts and Cultural district designation is likely to be awarded to any of the Four Wards that can be defined in terms of leadership, geographic boundaries, branding, and current assets; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Camden recognizes that a thriving creative sector is a powerful economic development asset and the Arts and Cultural district designation is one potential strategy that will help the City's community revitalization efforts while also realizing other cultural and civic benefits whose outcomes extend beyond the arts and can benefit all members of the district and the City as a whole; and

**WHEREAS**, Arts and Cultural districts will attract artists and cultural enterprises to the community and artists, cultural institutions, and creative enterprises all contribute to a community's economic potential by not only generating direct economic activity, but artists and creative entrepreneurs infuse communities with energy and innovation; and

**WHEREAS**, Arts and Cultural districts will encourage business and job development and such districts can create a hub of economic activity that contributes to the community being seen an thriving sand appealing place to live, visit and conduct business; and

**WHEREAS**, a thriving cultural scene helps an area to prosper when consumers drawn to cultural attractions patronize other nearby businesses which can result in the creation of new economic opportunities and jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, Arts and Cultural districts also will address specific needs of a community as Arts and Cultural districts are considered a highly adaptable economic development approach that allows a community to make use of unique conditions, assets, and opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, Arts and Cultural districts preserve and can re-use historic buildings and some cultural districts are highly involved in historic preservation and adaptive re-use and rehabilitation of older buildings through potential preservation tax credits can result in structural and façade improvements and such rehabilitated buildings provide opportunities for affordable artist homelife/workspace and new homes for cultural organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, Arts and Cultural districts enhance property values. Successful districts combine improvements to public spaces (such as parks, waterfronts, and pedestrian corridors) along with property development. The redevelopment of abandoned properties, historic sites, and recruiting businesses to occupy vacant spaces can contribute to reduced vacancy rates and enhanced property values; and

**WHEREAS**, an Arts and Cultural districts also foster local cultural development and the establishment of cultural districts provides a focal point for celebrating and strengthening a community's cultural identity and Arts and Cultural districts clearly highlight existing cultural amenities and work to exhaustively recruit and establish new artists, cultural industries, and organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Camden views arts and culture as integral to the complex underlying structure of any community and recognizes its potential to strengthen economic development and tourism, enhance neighborhood identity, educate children and adults, support a public process for incorporating artist services and artworks in the design of civic spaces and facilities, and ultimately enrich the spirit and pride of its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Camden now must accept this responsibility seeking to expand the opportunities for its citizens to experience arts and culture through the creation of these Arts and Cultural Districts; now therefore

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the City Council of the City of Camden that Chapter 142 of the Camden City Code is established as follows:

## **CHAPTER 142 ARTS AND CULTURAL DISTRICTS**

### **142-1. Incorporation of Recitals.**

The above "Whereas" clauses are hereby incorporated into this Chapter 142.

### **142-2. Establishment of Arts and Cultural Districts.**

The Arts, Cultural and Heritage Commission shall make recommendations to the Administration and the City Council of the City of Camden with regard to the establishment of specific Arts and Cultural Districts which may be established in one or more of the Four Wards in the City of Camden.

### **142-3. Criteria for the Establishment of Arts and Cultural Districts.**

The Arts, Cultural and Heritage Commission, with input from the Administration Officials and City Council, shall develop criteria for identifying and establishing Arts and Cultural Districts which may be established in one or more of the Four Wards in the City of Camden.

### **142-4. Designation of an Arts and Cultural District.**

The City Council of the City of Camden shall give due and full consideration to the recommendations of the Arts, Cultural and Heritage Commission in rendering any decision on identifying and designating an area as an Arts and Cultural District which may be established in one or more of the Four Wards in the City of Camden.

### **142-5. City Council Decision on Designating an Arts and Cultural District.**

The City Council of the City of Camden shall select each Arts and Cultural District, including the defined boundaries of the district, and the final decision as to whether an area in the City of Camden shall be identified and designated as an Arts and Cultural District shall rest with the City Council of the City of Camden.

### **142-6. Availability of Program Funds.**

The City of Camden shall consider various available program funds for designated Arts and Cultural Districts in assisting to meet the goals as set forth in this Chapter.

### **142-7. Annual report.**

The Arts, Cultural and Heritage Commission shall incorporate the progress in identifying and designating Arts and Cultural Districts, in an annual report to the City Council of the City of Camden, which shall be filed with the Administration and the City Council of the City of Camden by no later than November 30th of each year.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that following introduction and prior to adoption, the Clerk shall cause a copy of this ordinance to be referred to the City of Camden Planning Board for review pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 40:55D-26*.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that if any provision of this ordinance is declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions of this ordinance. Furthermore, the other provisions of this ordinance are deemed to be severable and remain in full force and effect.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that that any portion of the Camden City Code not herein amended and supplemented shall remain in full force and effect.

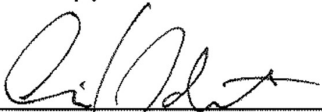
**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed as to such inconsistency only.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that this ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after its final passage and publication as provided by law.


**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 52:27BBB-23* and *N.J.S.A. 40:69A-41*, a true copy of this Ordinance shall be forwarded to the Mayor, who shall have ten (10) days from the receipt thereof to approve or veto this Ordinance. Additionally, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 52:27BBB-23*, a true copy of this Ordinance shall be forwarded to the State Commissioner of Community Affairs, who shall have ten (10) days from the receipt thereof to veto this Ordinance, and the action by the Commissioner regarding this Ordinance shall supersede any action by the Mayor on the same Ordinance. All notices of approval and/or veto shall be filed in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

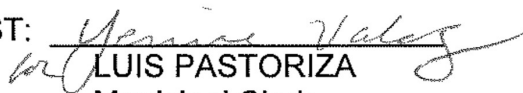
Date of Introduction: January 9, 2024

The above has been reviewed and approved as to form.

  
for DANIEL S. BLACKBURN  
City Attorney

  
ANGEL FUENTES  
President City Council

  
VICTOR CARSTARPHEN  
Mayor

ATTEST:   
LUIS PASTORIZA  
Municipal Clerk

Angel Fuentes, President  
Councilperson-at-Large  
  
Sheila Davis, Vice-President  
Councilperson-at-Large  
  
Nohemi Soria-Perez  
Councilperson-at-Large

Arthur Barclay  
Councilperson, 1<sup>st</sup> Ward  
  
Chris Collins  
Councilperson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward  
  
Fallo Leyba-Martinez  
Councilperson, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward  
  
Jannette Ramos  
Councilperson, 4<sup>th</sup> Ward



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Luis Pastoriza, RMC, CMR  
Municipal Clerk  
  
Yenise E. Valdez  
Assistant Municipal Clerk  
  
Howard McCoach  
Counsel-To-Council

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**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** *February 14, 2024*


**TO:** *Victor Carstarphen, Mayor*

**FROM:** *Luis Pastoriza, Municipal Clerk*

**RE:** *Ordinance Final Passage – (MC-5482)*

**Ordinance establishing Chapter 142 of the Camden City Code adopting a process to designate Arts and Cultural Districts in the City of Camden, New Jersey**

In accordance with Rule XIX of the Administrative Code of the City of Camden (Rules of Procedure governing the City Council), I am delivering to you the attached ordinance adopted by City Council at a **Regular** meeting held on **2-13-2024**. Said article provides that "each ordinance shall be returned by the Mayor to the Municipal Clerk after the Mayor has affixed his /her signature thereto or after the expiration of **ten (10) days** from the date of its delivery to the Mayor in any event."

<b>OFFICE OF THE MAYOR</b>	
Received by: <u></u>	Date: <u>2/14/24</u>
Date of Approval: <u>2/16/24</u>	