

## P R E F A C E

The first European settlers to arrive in the area now occupied by Gloucester City were Dutch colonists brought on a vessel commanded by Cornelius Jacob Mey. In 1623 Mey established a colony at the mouth of the Sassackon, the most northerly branch of Timber Creek. The Dutch were subsequently driven out by the English, who had laid claim to the land and who in 1677 established a settlement at Gloucester Point.

The Commissioners of the settlement at Gloucester Point bought the land between Rancocas and Timber Creeks from the Indians for an assortment of trade goods and brandy, and in 1689 a town was laid out with thirteen streets and a market place. From this town Gloucester City has grown, a growth that was accelerated by the coming of industry to the area in about 1844.

Gloucester City was incorporated as a city by an act of the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey adopted in 1868.<sup>1</sup>

The City of Gloucester City, like many municipalities, has passed through the struggles that characterize all American communities in their history. While only a few simple laws were necessary in the nineteenth century, subsequent growth of the city, together with the complexity of modern life, has created the need for more and detailed legislation for the proper function and government of the city. The recording of local law is an aspect of municipal history, and as the community develops and changes, review and revision of old laws and consideration of new laws, in the light of current trends, must keep pace. The

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<sup>1</sup> Editor's Note: The historical information comes from an informational pamphlet printed in 1956 and was taken originally from the annals of the Historical Society of Gloucester City, compiled by Albert Corcoran, President of the Society, and Harry F. Green, Vice-President.

orderly collection of these records is an important step in this ever-continuing process; ordinances must be more than mere chronological enactments lost in history in the pages of old records. They must be available and they must be logically arranged for convenient use. They must be kept up-to-date. It was with thoughts such as these in mind that the Mayor and Common Council ordered the following codification of ordinances.

A brief introduction to the organization and main features of the Code is in order, for efficient use will obviously enhance its value. The following points should be noted.

### **Charter**

The Charter precedes the Code and is composed of the Charter as originally enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey in 1868 and amendments and supplements thereto

### **Contents of Code**

The various parts of the Code contain all currently effective ordinances of a general and permanent nature enacted by the Mayor and Common Council and the Board of Health of the City of Gloucester City. In accordance with recognized codification procedures, this legislation is printed intact; that is to say, no part of any ordinance has been deleted in the preparation of this Code unless it has been either repealed or superseded by subsequent legislation.

### **Division of Code**

The Code is divided into three parts. PART I, Administrative Ordinances, contains the basic administrative provisions for city government. PART II, General Ordinances, contains all ordinances of a regulatory na-

ture adopted by the Mayor and Common Council, and PART III, Board of Health Ordinances, contains ordinances adopted by the Board of Health.

### **Grouping of Ordinances and Arrangement of Chapters**

The ordinances are organized into chapters, their order being an alphabetical progression from one subject to another. Wherever there are two or more ordinances dealing with the same subject, they are combined into a single chapter. Thus, for example, all ordinances dealing with alcoholic beverages may be found in the chapter entitled "Alcoholic Beverages," and all ordinances pertaining to theaters may be found in the chapter entitled "Theaters." In such chapters, the identity of the individual ordinances is preserved by the use of Article designations.

### **Table of Contents**

The table of contents details the arrangement of material by chapter as a means of identifying specific areas of legislation. Wherever two or more ordinances have been combined by the editors into a single chapter, titles of the several Articles are listed beneath the chapter title in order to facilitate location of the individual ordinances.

### **Pagination**

A unique page-numbering system has been used, in which each chapter forms an autonomous unit. One hundred pages have been allotted to each chapter, and the first page of each is the number of that chapter followed by the numerals "01." Thus, Chapter 13 be-

gins on Page 1301, Chapter 36 on Page 3601, etc. By use of this system, it is possible to add or change pages in any chapter without affecting the sequence of subsequent pages in other chapters, and to interpolate entire new chapters without affecting the existing organization.

### **Numbering of Sections**

A unique system of section numbering is also used. Each section of every ordinance is assigned a number which indicates both the number of the chapter in which the ordinance is located and the location of the section within that chapter. Thus, the first section of Chapter 13 is § 13-1, and the tenth section of Chapter 36 is § 36-10.

### **Scheme**

The scheme is the list of titles which precedes the text of each chapter. These titles are carefully written so that, taken together, they may be considered as a summary of the content of the ordinance. Taken separately, each describes the content of a particular section. For ease and precision of reference, the scheme titles are repeated as section headings in the text.

### **References**

A table of general references for each chapter is included on the title page of that chapter, in order to direct the reader to material of related interest.

### **Index**

The index is a guide to information. Since it is likely that this Code will be used by persons without formal

legal training, the index has been formulated to enable such persons to locate a particular Charter or ordinance section quickly. Each section of the Charter and the ordinances has been indexed. As new legislation is added, appropriate index lines will be included with the supplement.

### **Appendix**

Certain forms of local legislation do not meet the definition of "ordinance" but are of such significance that their application is community-wide or their provisions are germane to the conduct of municipal government. The appendix of the Code is reserved for such legislation, and for any other material not qualifying as ordinances that the community may wish to include.

### **Supplementation**

Supplementation of the Code will follow the adoption of new legislation. New ordinances and amendments will be included and repeals will be indicated as soon as possible after passage.

### **Acknowledgment**

The valuable assistance of the City Solicitor, William E. Hughes, Esq., and the City Clerk, Edward J. Ronan, is gratefully acknowledged. Their cooperation and dedication to the achievement and maintenance of the highest standards of excellence in municipal government have added to the merit of this Code.

The codification of the ordinances of the City of Gloucester City reflects an appreciation of the needs of a progressive and expanding community. As in many other municipalities, officials are faced with fundamental changes that involve nearly every

aspect of community life. Problems increase in number and complexity, and range in importance from quotidian details to crucial areas of civic planning. It is the profound conviction of General Code Publishers that this Code will contribute significantly to the efficient administrative of local government. As Samuel Johnson observed, "The law is the last result of human wisdom acting upon human experience for the benefit of the public."