

**ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GLOUCESTER CITY
COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
#O 15 - 2023**

**ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RE-RATIFYING THE GLOUCESTER CITY POLICE
DEPARTMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS TO INCLUDE POLICY 3:8.6d. ENTITLED
“PERSONAL APPEARANCE” OF THE CITY OF GLOUCESTER CITY,
COUNTY OF CAMDEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

WHEREAS, it was once common practice in the State of New Jersey to craft rules and regulations to contain everything a police officer needed to know to do his job; and

WHEREAS, it is now recognized that the rules and regulations should provide broad guidance for police officer behavior including the specifics of day-to-day police operations which properly belong in department policies and procedures; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of rules and regulations is not the responsibility of the Chief of Police, but instead is the responsibility of the Appropriate Authority within the City; and

WHEREAS, appropriate police rules and regulations of a municipal police department must have a current and valid municipal ordinance pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:14-118 which states in pertinent part: “Any such ordinance shall, in a manner consistent with the form of government adopted by the municipality and with general law, provide for a line of authority relating to the police function and for the adopting and promulgation by the appropriate authority of rules and regulations for the government of the force and the discipline of its members.”; and

WHEREAS, only when the municipal ordinance identifies the appropriate authority can valid rules and regulations be adopted and promulgated; and

WHEREAS, in order for rules and regulations to be valid, each municipality must comply with the sequence of events described in the aforesaid statute; and

WHEREAS, the Appropriate Authority, upon the recommendation of the Chief of Police, has determined that this amendment is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Gloucester City (“City”).

NOW, THEREFORE, be it Ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Gloucester City, County of Camden and State of New Jersey as follows:

Section 1: The Gloucester City Police Department, Rules and Regulations are hereby re-ratified in its entirety and amended to include 3:8.6 d. Personal Appearance, to read as follows:

- d. Beards shall be permitted subject to the restrictions set forth below. Personnel with a medical condition, which precludes shaving, shall be required to present a written statement, signed by a medical doctor, verifying such condition. Beards may also be permitted for religious reasons upon approval of the Chief of Police. Beards are permitted in conjunction with a connecting mustache; Beards may not exceed ½ inch in length; Beards must be consistent in length and color to their natural hair; Beards must be well-groomed at all times; Beards must be shaped and maintain a neat and trimmed appearance near the neck and jaw line; Beards shall have no designs or markings of any kind; Beards shall not be permitted while the officer is in his Class A uniform for attendance at the following, but not limited to: Funerals, Superior Court appearances, Awards Ceremonies, and any other function at the Chief or designee's discretion. Non-uniformed employees may deviate from the above beard standard as authorized by the Chief of Police or designee.

Section 2: All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

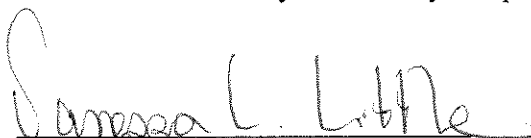
Section 3: If the provisions of any section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision, or clause of this Ordinance shall be judged invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such order of judgment shall not affect or invalidate the remainder of any section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision, or clause of this Ordinance.

Section 4: This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final passage and publication in accordance with law.


Dayl R. Baile, Mayor

Passed on First Reading: March 27, 2023

Adopted by the Mayor and Common Council of Gloucester City this 24th day of April, 2023.


Vanessa L. Little, RMC, City Clerk