

Resolution No. 2019-38

A Resolution to provide a City Building Permit fee waiver for certain improvements for properties located within the Downtown Development District.

WHEREAS, under the Downtown Development Districts Act, 22 *Del.C.* §§ 1901 *et seq.* (the “Act”), the State of Delaware may designate districts within Delaware’s cities, towns, and unincorporated areas that will qualify for significant development incentives and other State benefits; and

WHEREAS, a portion of the City of New Castle (the “City”) was designated as a Downtown Development District (“DDD”) on August 19th, 2019; and

WHEREAS, as a condition of said designation, the City committed to enacting various “local incentives” to help achieve the purposes set forth in the Act; and

WHEREAS, one of the local incentives included in the City’s application to receive the DDD designation involved waiving certain City Building Permit fees for in properties located within the DDD;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Section A239-2 of the City Code setting Business License fees is hereby amended to state as follows:

A. Whenever by any provision of the Delaware Code or the Code of the City of New Castle the issuance of a permit or other action by any agency, officer or employee of the town is required, the fee thereafter shall be determined by reference to the following schedule:

(1) Building permits (including permits for signs and fences) are charged in accordance with the value of the work being done.

(a) For work or improvements valued at less than \$250: No permit is required.

(b) For work or improvements valued at \$250 but less than \$1,000: \$50.00.

(c) For work or improvements valued at more than \$1,000 but less than \$1,000,000: \$150 plus 1.5% of the value of such work or improvements.

(d) For work or improvements valued at more than \$1,000,000: \$200, plus 1.5% of the value of such work or improvements.

(e) Permit fees shall be doubled if work is begun prior to issuance of a building permit.

(f) For any property located in that portion of the City designated as a “Downtown Development District” (DDD) under 22 *Del.C.* §§ 1901 *et seq.*, no fee for a Building Permit shall be required for:

- New or replacement signage; and/or
- Façade improvements; and/or
- Installation of underground utilities; and/or
- Sidewalk improvements.

The fee waiver for properties located in the Downtown Development District shall remain valid for only as long as the City’s DDD program remains certified by the State of Delaware.

Passed this 8th day of October, 2019

Linda Ratchford, City Council President

Valarie W. Leary, Councilperson

Michael M. Platt, Councilperson

Russell P. Smith, Councilperson

Suzanne M. Souder, Councilperson

Attest:

Brian Whitaker, City Clerk.