

**CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION
LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**



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Bill Type and Number: Ordinance 2023-44

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council Members Freeman, Salem, Newby, Diamond, Pittman, Clark-Murray, Howland, Becton, Morgan, Carrico, Bowman, & Boylan

Date of Introduction: January 24, 2023

Committee(s) of Reference: NCSPHS, LUZ

Date of Analysis: January 26, 2023

Type of Action: Zoning Code amendment; emergency passage requested

Bill Summary: The bill amends Ordinance Code Chapter 656 – Zoning Code – in Part 13 – Sign Regulations – to prohibit projections of light, laser beams or other media to form text, graphics, logos or artwork onto streets, walkways, fences, sign structures, land or water surfaces, or exterior walls or other exterior portions of buildings or any other structure unless done by the owner of the property onto which the projection is made in a way that does not otherwise violate applicable sign regulations. Violations are deemed to be a Class D offense. The bill further provides that projections of text, graphics, logos, or artwork onto a building, structure or any other place (including public spaces) without the consent of the owner or person in control of the building, structure or space shall constitute blight and graffiti pursuant to state law and shall constitute a second degree misdemeanor punishable by a mandatory fine of not less than \$2,000, a discretionary jail term of up to 60 days, and seizure by the Sheriff’s Office of equipment or vehicles used in the commission of the misdemeanor. This new Code provision is enforceable by both the Municipal Code Compliance Division and the Sheriff’s Office. Emergency passage on first reading is requested.

Background Information: The bill is filed in reaction to several recent incidents in which anti-Semitic images and text have been projected onto prominent public and private buildings without consent of the property owners.

Policy Impact Area: Zoning Code – sign regulations

Fiscal Impact: None

Analyst: Clements