

# Code of Ordinances of the Forest Hills Borough

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**Code of Ordinances**  
**of the**  
**Forest Hills Borough**  
**Allegheny County, Pennsylvania**

**Published by Authority of the Borough**

Adopted by *Ord. 976*, 1/16/2008

KEYSTATE PUBLISHERS, INC.  
300 West King Street, P.O. Box 366  
Shippensburg, PA 17257



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**Officials**  
**of the**  
**Forest Hills Borough**  
County of  
Allegheny, Pennsylvania

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Mayor - Raymond Heller, Jr.

Borough Council

President - Francesco Porco  
- Martin O'Malley  
- Michael Mrazik  
- Faith Katchmar  
- William Tomasic  
- Steven Karas  
Tax Collector - Janet M. Sullivan

**APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

Manager - Steven J. Morus  
Secretary - Steven J. Morus  
Treasurer - Barbara Livingstone  
Building Code Official - Chuck Kovac  
Solicitor - Blaine A. Lucas, Esquire  
Babst, Calland, Clements & Zomnir  
Engineer - Paul Gaus



## FOREWORD

### *History*

This comprises the codification of the ordinances of Forest Hills Borough. Forest Hills Borough was incorporated as a Borough on July 29, 1919.

The Forest Hills Borough Code of Ordinances was prepared by Keystate Publishers, Inc., and adopted by Forest Hills Borough Council on January 16, 2008, by *Ord. 976*.

### *Organization*

The Code contains four parts which are (1) the valid current ordinances of Forest Hills Borough contained in Chapters 1 through 27, (2) the Appendix, which lists by abstracted title all ordinances of a temporary or "one time" nature, (3) the Key to the disposition of each ordinance ever enacted by Forest Hills Borough, and (4) the Index, which is an alphabetical arrangement of subjects.

In the Code each Chapter is separated by a divider tab, and specific ordinances can be located by subject on the contents page at the beginning of each Chapter. The Index may also be used to search for a subject when one is looking for general information on a particular subject, or if it is not known in which Chapter the subject might be found. The Appendix consists of several general categories containing a chronological listing of short subject descriptions along with a reference to the original ordinance and its date of enactment, if known.

The Key to disposition indicates what action has been taken by Forest Hills Borough Council with regard to every ordinance ever enacted. An ordinance has either been (1) specifically repealed, (2) superseded by another ordinance, (3) is located in a Chapter of the Code book, or (4) is located in the Appendix. Annual tax rate and budget ordinances are located only in the Key. The Key is a cross reference to the original ordinance books of Forest Hills Borough, and to the location within the Code of each ordinance by number.



ORDINANCE NO. 976

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FOREST HILLS, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING THE BOROUGH OF FOREST HILLS CODE OF ORDINANCES; CONSOLIDATING, REVISING, AMENDING AND REPEALING CERTAIN ORDINANCES; ENACTING CERTAIN NEW PROVISIONS; PROVIDING A PROCEDURE FOR AMENDING THE CODE AND FOR THE CITATION OF THE CODE AND THE EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF; ESTABLISHING RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE CODE; SAVING CERTAIN PROVISIONS FROM REPEAL; AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION.

WHEREAS, Section 1008(b) of the Borough Code, 53 P.S. §46008(b), authorizes the Borough of Forest Hills (the “Borough”) to cause to be prepared a consolidation, codification or revision of the general body of Borough ordinances, and authorizes the Borough to adopt such consolidation, codification or revision as an ordinance of the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council contracted with Keystate Publishers, Inc., for the preparation of a codification of the general body of Borough ordinances, to be known as the “Forest Hills Borough Code of Ordinances”; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council desires to enact an ordinance adopting the codification of the general body of Borough ordinances, known as the “Forest Hills Borough Code of Ordinances.”

NOW, THEREFORE, the Borough Council of the Borough of Forest Hills hereby ordains and enacts as follows:

**Section 1. Adoption.** The “Forest Hills Borough Code of Ordinances,” as prepared and published for the Borough, is hereby adopted as a consolidation, codification and revision of the ordinances of the Borough. Chapters 1 through 27 thereof contain the text of the body of all general administrative and regulatory ordinances of the Borough organized as follows:

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- Chapter 1 . . . . . Administration and Government
- Chapter 2 . . . . . Animals
- Chapter 3 . . . . . [Reserved]
- Chapter 4 . . . . . [Reserved]
- Chapter 5 . . . . . Code Enforcement
- Chapter 6 . . . . . Conduct
- Chapter 7 . . . . . Fire Prevention and Fire Protection
- Chapter 8 . . . . . Floodplains
- Chapter 9 . . . . . Grading and Excavating
- Chapter 10 . . . . . Health and Safety
- Chapter 11 . . . . . Housing
- Chapter 12 . . . . . [Reserved]
- Chapter 13 . . . . . Licenses, Permits and General Business Regulations
- Chapter 14 . . . . . [Reserved]

Chapter 15 . . . . . Motor Vehicles and Traffic  
Chapter 16 . . . . . Parks and Recreation  
Chapter 17 . . . . . [Reserved]  
Chapter 18 . . . . . Sewers  
Chapter 19 . . . . . [Reserved]  
Chapter 20 . . . . . Solid Waste and Recycling  
Chapter 21 . . . . . Streets and Sidewalks  
Chapter 22 . . . . . Subdivision and Land Development  
Chapter 23 . . . . . Stormwater Management  
Chapter 24 . . . . . Taxation; Special  
Chapter 25 . . . . . Trees  
Chapter 26 . . . . . [Reserved]  
Chapter 27 . . . . . Zoning

APPENDIX

A. . . . . Annexation of Territory  
B . . . . . Bond Issues and Loans  
C . . . . . Franchises and Services  
D . . . . . Governmental and Intergovernmental Affairs  
E . . . . . Plan Approval  
F . . . . . Public Property  
G . . . . . Sewers  
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The Appendix of the volume lists, by subject matter, in chronological order, the titles (or an abstract of title) of enactments of special nature or of historical interest, for the complete text of which the official records of Borough shall be authoritative.

**Section 2. Citation and Effective Date.** The codification referred to in Section 1 of this ordinance shall be known and cited officially as the “Forest Hills Borough Code of Ordinances,” and all future ordinances shall make reference thereto. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon publication of notice of final enactment as required by law.

**Section 3. Saving Clause and Interpretation.** The provisions of the Forest Hills Borough Code of Ordinances, so far as they are the same as those ordinances and regulations in force immediately prior to the adoption of said Code, are intended as a continuation of such ordinances and regulations and not as a new enactment. The provisions of the Forest Hills Borough Code of Ordinances shall not affect any suit or prosecution pending or to be instituted to enforce any of the prior ordinances or regulations. Unless otherwise stated herein, in the event of any conflict between any provisions or regulations of this Code, then the stricter regulation shall govern.

**Section 4. Consolidation and Revision.** As a necessary part of codification, the following provisions are hereby consolidated and revised as indicated:

A. *Consolidations.*

<b>Section</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Ordinance No.</b>
		[Reserved]

B. *Revisions.*

<b>Section</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Ordinance No.</b>
		[Reserved]

**Section 5. New Enactments, Amendments and Repeals.** As a necessary part of codification, the following ordinances are hereby enacted, amended and repealed as summarized by short title:

A. *New Enactments.*

<b>Section</b>	<b>Subject</b>
§§1-101-1-110	Preliminary Provisions; General
§§1-121-1-122	Enforcement of Ordinances; Penalties
§§1-211-1-212	Borough Secretary
§§1-301-1-310	Establishment of Police Department
§§1-501-1-504	Independent Auditor
§§1-521-1-522	Firefighter's Relief Association
§§1-601-1-605	Planning Commission
§§1-801-1-804	Financial Security
§§2-101-2-110	Dogs
§§2-201-2-205	Cats
§§6-201-6-208	Tampering with Public Property
§§6-301-6-307	Curfew
§§6-401-6-405	Discharge of Firearms
§§6-601-6-602	Fireworks
§§6-701-6-710	Public Meetings and Gatherings
§§6-801-6-802	Graffiti
§§7-201-7-202	Outdoor Fires
§§7-401-7-406	Security for Fire Loss Claim
§§7-501-7-506	Reimbursement of Emergency Service Costs

<b>Section</b>	<b>Subject</b>
§§10-101–10-112	Health Hazards and Nuisances
§§13-101–13-115	Mechanical and Electronic Amusement Devices
§§13-301–13-307	False Alarms
§§13-601–13-613	Amusement Establishments
§§13-701–13-716	Junkyards
§§13-801–13-819	Adult Oriented Business
§§24-101–24-110	Earned Income Tax
§§24-201–24-215	Realty Transfer Tax

*B. Amendments.*

<b>Section</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Ordinance No., Section</b>
§1-203	Qualifications of Manager; Residence During Tenure	475, §3
§1-204	Bond Required	475, §4; 830
§1-205	Manager's Salary	475, §5
§1-611	Recreation Board	472, §1; 644, §1; 864, §1
§1-621	Environmental Advisory Council	645, §§1-5
§1-631	Shade Tree and Shrub Committee	Res. 509, §§2-5; Res. 559, §1; 830
§2-302	Keeping of Wild Animals	868, §2
§2-304	Animal Noise Regulation	868, §4
§2-307	Special Permit to Exceed Number of Animals Permitted	868, §7
§2-312	Enforcement	868
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§5-104	Borough Construction Code Official	944, §1
§5-107	Permit Hours	944, §1
§6-122	Penalties	361, §24; 450, §2; 563, §2; 830
§6-504	Purchase, Consumption, Possession or Transportation of Liquor or Malt or Brewed Beverages	928, §1
§6-508	Violation	928, §1
§7-104	Penalties	510; 830

<b>Section</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Ordinance No., Section</b>
§8-102	Applicability	782, §101
§8-106	Definitions	782, §106; 857, §§3, 4
§8-202	Issuance of Building Permits	782, §202; 830
§8-203	Application Procedures and Requirements	782, §203; 830; 857, §§5-7
§8-208	Inspection and Revocation	782, §208; 830
§8-211	Penalties	782, §211; 830
§8-401	General	782, §401; 857, §§9-11; 859, §1; 866, §1
§8-403	Elevation and Floodproofing Requirements, Residential Structures	782, §402; 859, §6; 866, §7
§8-404	Elevation and Floodproofing Requirements, Non-residential Structures	782, §404; 857, §12; 859, §§3, 4; 866, §§3, 4
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§8-601	Existing Structures	782, §501
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§9-117	Violation and Penalties	610, §17; 830
§11-104	Violations and Penalties	731, §4; 830
§13-205	Violations and Penalties	956, §1
§13-407	Dispensing of Gasoline	763, §8
§13-409	Controls and Additional Emergency Measures	763, §10
§13-410	Penalties for Violation	763, §11; 830
§15-102	Relationship to Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code	830
§15-111	Signs Required	830

<b>Section</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Ordinance No., Section</b>
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§15-706	Reclamation Costs	830
§15-711	Notification of Impoundment	830
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§16-102	Presently Existing Parks	568, §2; 681, §1; 830
§16-104	Certain Acts Prohibited	518, §1; 568, §4; 681, §§2-4; 958, §1
§16-105	Permit Required for Certain Activities	518, §2; 830
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§18-225	Penalties	854, §5
§18-402	Certificate of Compliance Application	872, §4; 964, §1

<b>Section</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Ordinance No., Section</b>
§18-404	Borough Lien Letters	872, §4
§18-407	Violations and Penalties	872, §4
§18-505	Penalties	895, §5
§20-102	Definitions	827, §2
§20-104	Prohibited Activities	827, §4
§20-208	Violations and Penalties	935, §1
§20-307	Violations and Penalties	935, §2
§21-288	Penalties	918
§21-309	Penalties	463; 830
§21-325	Penalties	464, §3; 662; 830
§21-405	Penalties	159½, §4; 830
§21-508	Penalties	950, §508
§25-208	Penalties	615, §2; 830; 925
§25-304	Penalties	655, §4; 830

*C. Repeals.*

<b>Ordinance/Resolution</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Res. 631	Public Relations Committee

**Section 6. Land Use Amendments.** The Forest Hills Borough Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as is more fully shown in the complete text of Chapters 22 and Chapter 27 thereof which is attached hereto and made part hereof by reference hereto as if fully set out at length herein, with deletions shown by ~~strike-through~~ and additions shown by underline, all of which is briefly summarized hereinafter.

*A. New Provisions.* The following provisions are new provisions which are being added to the Code, are underlined throughout the text, and are summarized as follows:

<b>Section</b>	<b>Subject</b>
	[Reserved]

*B. Revised Provisions.* The following provisions of the Code are revised, the text of which indicates deletions by ~~strike-through~~ and additions shown by underline, and are summarized as follows:

<b>Section</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Ordinance No.</b>
§27-1304	Enforcement Remedies	970, §1304

C. *Repealed Provisions.* The following provisions of the Code are repealed, the text of which indicates deletions by ~~strike-through~~, and are as follows:

Section	Subject	Ordinance No.
	[Reserved]	

**Section 7. Procedural Changes.** The following minor procedural changes have been made to existing Borough ordinances:

- A. Grammatical and spelling errors have been corrected where necessary;
- B. Minor changes have been made to correct obsolete terms and usages;
- C. The penalty provisions have been revised where necessary to comply with the Pennsylvania Borough Code, Vehicle Code, Municipalities Planning Code and the Local Tax Enabling Act.

**Section 8. Amending the Code of Ordinances.** The procedure for amending the Code of Ordinances shall include the citation of the Chapter, Part, Section and subsection to be amended, revised, repealed or added as follows:

- A. Amendment or Revision - “Chapter \_\_\_, Part \_\_\_, Section \_\_\_, Subsection \_\_\_ is hereby amended [revised] to read as follows...”
- B. Additions - “Chapter \_\_\_, Part \_\_\_, Section \_\_\_, Subsection \_\_\_ is hereby amended by the addition of the following...”
- C. Repeal - “Chapter \_\_\_, Part \_\_\_, Section \_\_\_, Subsection \_\_\_ is hereby repealed in its entirety.”

**Section 9. Responsibility for Code of Ordinances.** It shall be the responsibility of the Borough Secretary to maintain an up-to-date certified copy of the Code of Ordinances. This copy shall be the official copy of the Forest Hills Borough Code of Ordinances and shall be available for public inspection.

**Section 10. Penalties.** It shall be unlawful for anyone to change, alter or tamper with the Code of Ordinances in any manner which will intentionally misrepresent the laws of the Borough. Whosoever shall violate this Section shall, upon conviction thereof, be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$600 plus costs and, in default of payment of said fine and costs, shall be subject to imprisonment for a term not to exceed 30 days.

**Section 11. Severability of Parts of Codification.** It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Borough Council that the Chapters, Parts, Sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this codification are severable. If any Section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Code is declared unconstitutional, illegal or otherwise invalid by the judgment or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction, that invalidity shall not affect any of the remaining Chapters, Parts, Sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or phrases of this codification.

ORDAINED and ENACTED, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2008, by the Board of Supervisors of the Borough of Forest Hills, in lawful session duly assembled.

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF FOREST HILLS

/s/ Steven J. Morus  
Steven J. Morus  
Borough Manager/Secretary

/s/ Frank Porco  
Frank Porco  
President, Borough Council

EXAMINED and APPROVED this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2008.

/s/ Raymond Heller, Jr.  
Mayor

