



ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE WEARING OF HOODS OR MASKS

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ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE WEARING OF HOODS OR MASKS

Whereas, the Government of the County of Mecklenburg exists to serve equally all of its citizens and to protect all of its citizens from crimes and inciteful disturbances, now therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED BY MECKLENBURG COUNTY:

Section 1: Definitions

- (1) Public Place. All walks, alleys, streets, boulevards, avenues, lanes, roads, highways, or other ways or thoroughfares dedicated to public use or owned or maintained by public authority

Section 2: Wearing Hood or Masks in a Public Place Prohibited

No person or persons shall, while wearing any hood, mask, or device whereby a substantial portion of the face is hidden or covered so as to conceal the identity of the wearer, enter, be, or appear in any public place or on the property of Mecklenburg County.

Section 3: Wearing Hood or Masks on the Property of Another Prohibited

No person shall, while wearing any hood, mask, or device whereby a substantial portion of the face is hidden or covered so as to conceal the identity of the wearer, demand entrance or admission, enter or come upon or into, or be upon or in the premises, enclosure or house of any other person unless he shall have first obtained the written permission of the owner and the occupant of such property.

Section 4: Exceptions

The following are exempted from the provisions of Section 2 and 3 of this ordinance:

- (1) Any person under sixteen years of age.
- (2) Any person wearing traditional holiday costumes in season.
- (3) Any person using masks in theatrical productions including use in mardi gras celebrations and masquerade balls;
- (4) Any person lawfully engaged in trades or employment or in a sporting activity where a mask or facial covering is worn for the physical safety of the wearer, or because of the nature of the occupation, trade or professional or sporting activity;
- (5) Any person wearing a gas mask in drills, exercise or emergencies.
- (6) Any person or persons, as members or members elect of a society, order or organization, engaged in any parade, ritual, initiation, ceremony, celebration or requirement of such society, order or organization may wear hoods or

masks in a public place if permission is first obtained from the Board of County Commissioners.

Section 5: Penalties

Any person who violates Section 2 or Section 3 of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be fined no more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) and/or imprisoned for no longer than 30 days.

Section 6: Jurisdiction

This ordinance shall be enforceable within the unincorporated areas of Mecklenburg County.

Section 7: Effective Date

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and approval.

Ratified this the 7th day of July, 1981.