

**CODE OF ORDINANCES**

Chapter 1

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Sec. 1-1. How Code designated and cited.**

The ordinances embraced in the following chapters and sections shall constitute and be designated the "Code of Ordinances, City of South Portland, Maine," and may be so cited.

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**State law reference(s)**--Authority to codify, 30 M.R.S.A. § 2154.  
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**Sec. 1-2. Rules of construction and definitions.**

In the construction of this Code, and of all ordinances, the rules and definitions set out in this section shall be observed, unless such construction would be inconsistent with the manifest intent of the city council. The rules of construction and definitions set out herein shall not be applied to any section of this Code which shall contain any express provision excluding such construction, or where the subject matter of context of such section may be repugnant thereto.

In the interpretation and application of any provisions of this Code, they shall be held to be the minimum requirements adopted for the promotion of the public health, safety, comfort, convenience and general welfare. Where any provision of the Code imposes greater restrictions upon the subject matter than the general provision imposed by the Code, the provision imposing the greater restriction or regulation shall be deemed to be controlling.

*Generally.* All general provisions, terms, phrases and expressions contained in this Code shall be liberally construed in order that the true intent and meaning of the city council may be fully carried out.

*City* shall mean the City of South Portland, Maine.

*City council, council.* Whenever the term "council" or "city council" is used, it shall be construed to mean the city council of the City of South Portland, Maine.

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**Charter reference(s)**--Municipal officers made up of councilmen, § 202.  
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*Computation of time.* Whenever a notice is required to be given or an act to be done a certain length of time before any proceeding shall be had, the day on which such notice is given, or such act is done, shall not be counted in computing the time, but the day on which such proceeding is to be held shall be counted.

*Corporate or city limits.* The term "corporate limits" or "city limits" shall mean the legal boundaries of the City of South Portland, Maine.

*County.* The words "the county" or "this county" shall mean the County of Cumberland in the State of Maine.

*Delegation of authority.* Whenever a provision appears requiring the head of a department or some other city officer to do some act or perform some duty, it is to be construed to authorize the head of the department or other officer to designate, delegate and authorize subordinates to perform the required act or perform the duty unless the terms of the provision or section specify otherwise.

*Gender.* A word importing the masculine gender only shall extend and be applied to females and to firms, partnerships and corporations as well as to males.

*Joint authority.* All words giving a joint authority to three (3) or more persons or officers shall be construed as giving such authority to a majority of such persons or officers.

*Month.* The word "month" shall mean a calendar month.

*Nontechnical and technical words.* Words and phrases shall be construed according to the common and approved usage of the language, but technical words and phrases and such others as may have acquired a peculiar and appropriate meaning in law shall be construed and understood according to such meaning.

*Number.* A word importing the singular number only may extend and be applied to several persons and things as well as to one person and thing.

*Oath.* The word "oath" shall be construed to include an affirmation in all cases in which, by law, an affirmation may be substituted for an oath, and in such cases, the words "swear" and "sworn" shall be equivalent to the words "affirm" and "affirmed."

*Officials, boards, commissions.* Whenever reference is made to officials, boards and commissions by title only, i.e., "city council," "city manager" etc., they shall be deemed to refer to the officials, boards and commissions of the City of South Portland.

*Owner.* The word "owner," applied to a building or land, shall include any part owner, joint owner, tenant in common, tenant in partnership or joint tenant of the whole or of a part of such building or land.

*Person.* The word "person" shall extend and be applied to associations, clubs, societies, firms, partnerships and bodies politic and corporate as well as to individuals.

*Personal property* includes every species of property except real property as herein described.

*Preceding, following.* The words "preceding" and "following" mean next before and next after, respectively.

*Property.* The word "property" shall include real and personal property.

*Real property* shall include lands, tenements and hereditaments.

*Shall.* The word "shall" is mandatory.

*Sidewalk.* The word "sidewalk" shall mean any portion of a street between the curblin and the adjacent property line, intended for the use of pedestrians, excluding parkways.

*Signature or subscription* includes a mark when the person cannot write.

*State.* The words "the state" or "this state" shall be construed to mean the State of Maine.

*Street.* The word "street" shall be construed to embrace streets, avenues, boulevards, roads, alleys, lanes, viaducts and all other public ways in the city, and shall include all areas thereof embraced between the property lines or dedicated to the public use.

*Tenant or occupant.* The word "tenant" or "occupant," applied to a building or land, shall include any person holding a written or oral lease or who occupies the whole or a part of such building or land, either alone or with others.

*Tense.* Words used in the past or present tense include the future as well as the past and present.

*Written or in writing* shall be construed to include any representation of words, letters or figures, whether by printing or otherwise.

Year. The word "year" shall mean a calendar year.

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**State law reference(s)**--For similar provisions, see 1 M.R.S.A. § 72.  
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**Sec. 1-3. Catchlines of sections.**

The catchlines of the several sections of this Code printed in boldface type are intended as mere catchwords to indicate the contents of the section and shall not be deemed or taken to be titles of such sections, nor as any part of the section, nor, unless expressly so provided, shall they be so deemed when any of such sections, including the catchlines, are amended or reenacted.

**Sec. 1-4. Amendments to Code.**

All ordinances passed subsequent to this Code which amend, repeal or in any way affect this Code may be numbered in accordance with the numbering system of this Code and printed for inclusion herein, or in the case of repealed chapters, sections and subsections or any part thereof, by subsequent ordinances, such repealed portions may be excluded from the Code by omission from reprinted pages affected thereby and the subsequent ordinances as numbered and printed or omitted, in the case of repeal, shall be prima facie evidence of such subsequent ordinances until such time as this Code of Ordinances and subsequent ordinances numbered or omitted are readopted as a new code of ordinances by the city council.

**Sec. 1-5. Unauthorized alteration or tampering with Code.**

It shall be unlawful for any person in the city to change or amend, by additions or deletions, any part or portion of this Code, or to insert or delete pages, or portions thereof, or to alter or tamper with such Code in any manner whatsoever which will cause the law of the city to be misrepresented thereby.

**Sec. 1-6. Effect of repeal of ordinances.**

When any ordinance repealing a former ordinance, clause or provision shall be itself repealed, such repeal shall not be construed to revive such former ordinance, clause or provision unless it shall be therein so expressly provided.

The repeal of an ordinance shall not affect any punishment or penalty incurred before the repeal took effect, nor any suit, prosecution or proceeding pending at the time of the repeal, for an offense committed or cause of action arising under the ordinance repealed.

**Sec. 1-7. Severability of parts of Code.**

The sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Code are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this Code shall be declared unconstitutional, invalid or unenforceable by the valid judgment or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality, invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this Code.

**Sec. 1-8. General penalty for violation of Code; continuing violations.**

Whenever in this Code or in any ordinance of the city any act is prohibited or is made or declared to be unlawful or a misdemeanor, or whenever in such Code or ordinance the doing of any act is required or the failure to do any act is declared to be unlawful or a misdemeanor, where no specific penalty is provided therefor, the

violation of any such provision of this Code or any ordinance shall be punished by a

fine of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) plus costs. Each day any violation of any provision of this Code or of any ordinance shall continue shall constitute a separate offense.

(Ord. No. 37-75, 1-5-76)

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**State law reference(s)**--Authority to provide penalty, 30 M.R.S.A. § 2151(5).  
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