

ORDINANCE 7-2022

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WOODBURY HEIGHTS
AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING SECTIONS 14-3 AND 14-6 OF CHAPTER 14 OF THE
BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "FIRE DEPARTMENT"**

WHEREAS, there exists a national crisis concerning fire department staffing shortages for volunteer fire departments throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, in an April 2019 article featured in "Governing" magazine, "the number of volunteer firefighters has declined from 300,000 in the 1970's to 38,000 in 2018"; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Woodbury Heights Fire Chief, Stephen Christinzio, recently submitted correspondence dated March 9, 2022, addressed to the Mayor and Borough Council requesting certain Code amendments to enhance membership and eligibility of Department Officers for non-residents of the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Woodbury Heights Public Safety Committee agrees and supports such recommendations received from the Fire Chief.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Woodbury Heights, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey that Chapter 59 of the Borough Code entitled "FIRE DEPARTMENT" be and hereby is repealed and amended and supplemented, as follows:

SECTION I:

Chapter 14 of the Borough Code
entitled "FIRE DEPARTMENT",
Sections 14-3 and Section 14-6, are
hereby amended and supplemented by
the following revised Sections of the
Code:

§ 14-3. Chief, Deputy Chief and Assistant Chief appointment.

On the last Tuesday of November in each calendar year, there shall be elected from and by the membership of the Woodbury Heights Fire Department a Chief, Deputy Chief, and Assistant Chief. The names, as selected by the Woodbury Heights Fire Department Active Fireman's Association, shall be immediately presented to the Public Safety Committee, the Mayor, and Borough Council of the Borough of Woodbury Heights in advance of their annual reorganization meeting. The Mayor and Borough Council may, at their discretion, approve or deny, such officer appointments for the calendar year of the said reorganization. The term of office for each officer shall be one (1) year. All officers within this Section shall be bonafide residents of the Borough of Woodbury Heights, however, the Mayor and Borough Council, upon the favorable recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, shall have the discretion to approve non-resident officers submitted by the Fire Department.

§ 14-6. Qualifications for membership

- A.** No person shall become a member of the active department of the Woodbury Heights Improvement, Protection, and Fire Association who shall be under the age of eighteen (18) or over the age of fifty-six (56) and who shall not be in good physical condition to perform the duties of a fireman in accordance with a physical test record made and signed by a licensed physician of the state after due physical examination for that purpose.
- B.** Members of the Fire Department, in any class of membership, shall be citizens of the United States, and residents of the Borough of Woodbury Heights. However, nonresident applicants, may be qualified for Active Firemen with the additional approval of all Chiefs, including approval by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Woodbury Heights through the Public Safety Committee.
- C.** No change

SECTION II. Severability:

Each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase of this Ordinance is declared to be an independent section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase, and the finding or holding of any such portion of this Ordinance to be unconstitutional, void, or ineffective for any cause, or reason, shall not affect any other portion of this Ordinance.

SECTION III. Codification:

This ordinance may be renumbered for codification purposes.

SECTION IV. Effective Date:

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its final adoption and publication as required by law.

SECTION V.

All Ordinances or Code provisions or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance shall be and are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION VI.

If any section, subsection, part, clause or phrase of the Ordinance shall be declared invalid by judgment of any court of competent jurisdiction, such section, subsection, part, clause or phrase shall be deemed to be severable from the remainder of this Ordinance.

BOROUGH OF WOODBURY HEIGHTS

By: *William C. Packer*
WILLIAM C. PACKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

[Signature]
SHANNON ELTON, BOROUGH CLERK

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Ordinance was introduced at a Regular Meeting of Borough Council of the Borough of Woodbury Heights held on the 16th day of March 2022 and will be considered for final passage and adoption at a Regular Meeting at which time any person interested therein will be given an opportunity to be heard. Said meeting to be held on 20th day of April 2022, at the Borough Hall, 500 Elm Ave, Woodbury Heights, New Jersey.

[Signature]
SHANNON ELTON, BOROUGH CLERK

NOTICE

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF WOODBURY HEIGHTS
AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING SECTIONS 14-3 AND 14-6 OF CHAPTER 14 OF THE
CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WOODBURY HEIGHTS ENTITLED
"FIRE DEPARTMENT"**

NOTICE is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance 7-2022 was finally adopted at a meeting of the Borough of Woodbury Heights Council held on the 20th day of April 2022 at 7:30 p.m. in the Borough Hall, 500 Elm Avenue, Woodbury Heights, New Jersey.

[Signature]
SHANNON ELTON, BOROUGH CLERK