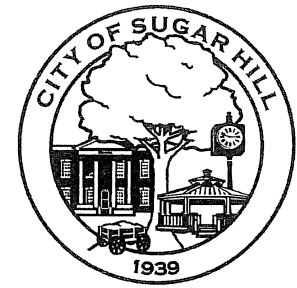


DATE: May 8, 2018
TO: Mayor & City Council
FROM: Planning Director KA
SUBJECT: License requirements for body art operators and artists



SUGGESTED ACTION

Municipal Code

Amend municipal code to remove the high school or general educational development diploma as a minimum qualification to issue a body art license.

- Sec. 18-621. -- License requirements; restrictions; issuance; fee. ¶
 - (a) → **Qualifications.** Each operator and all employees under this division, prior to making application for a license must have the following qualifications: ¶
 - (1) → Must be of good moral character, and in case the operator is a corporation, it must be created in or domesticated by the laws of the State of Georgia. ¶
 - (2) → Must be at least 18 years of age and have received a high school diploma or graduate equivalency diploma. ¶

DISCUSSION

- The City of Lawrenceville is the only municipality in Gwinnett County with licensure qualifications that include a minimum education above the first aid, blood borne pathogen and sanitary procedures certifications required by the county ordinance. Lawrenceville is also the only other municipality (aside from Sugar Hill) to require a separate local license in addition to the county health department permit.
- Planning department staff found several other states and counties across the country that require a high school or general educational development (GED) diploma but has been unable to identify other agencies in Georgia that have a similar education qualification.
- Several surrounding health departments administer a written test prior to approving a body art permit:
 - North Georgia Health District (Fannin, Gilmer, Pickens, Cherokee, Murray and Whitfield)
 - Northeast Health District (Clarke, Walton, Barrow, Jackson, Madison, Elbert, Greene, Morgan, Oconee and Oglethorpe)
 - Hall County (Required certification course available through outside agencies or applicant must pass test administered by department.)
- Gwinnett, Cobb, Douglas and Dekalb counties do not require an exam or education qualifications but do require specialized training in first aid, blood borne pathogen and sanitary procedures.
- Forsyth County does not allow body art.
- Planning department staff recommends lifting the high school or GED diploma requirement as the county ordinance mandates specialized training by approved service providers.