

City of Sugar Hill  
Planning Staff Report  
ZOA 21-003

DATE: September 29, 2021  
TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: Planning Director *JA*  
SUBJECT: Zoning Ordinance Amendment ZOA 21-003  
Microblading

---

RECOMMENDED ACTION

**Approval of the amendments as discussed.**

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING AND RECOMMENDATION:

*The Planning Commission held a scheduled public hearing on September 20, 2021. There were no other public comments. The public hearing was closed.*

*Planning Commission Member Jason Jones motioned to approve the zoning ordinance amendment as recommended by staff. Vice Chairman Julie Adams made the second. Motion approved 5-0.*

ISSUE

Microblading or micropigmentation appears to be an increasingly common procedure to camouflage the loss of facial hair including that of the eyebrow and scalp. The city's zoning ordinance includes 'microblading' with all forms of 'tattoo' and 'cosmetic tattoo' and therefore is only permitted with the approval of a special use permit (SUP) for 'Body Art Establishment' under the general business (BG) zoning classification.

Clearly there is a wide variety of body art procedures available as well as practitioners offering those services. It seems that a microblading artist specializing in the camouflage of thinning or lost facial hair could be more narrowly defined to distinguish them from the general tattoo or body artist in terms of zoning regulation.

The State of Georgia and City of Sugar Hill both require a body artist permit by the county health department for all persons engaging in the practice of microblading. The city also requires the issuance of a local body artist permit. This proposed amendment only seeks to provide a more specific zoning policy for a class of business that is commonly unrestricted in a medical setting and does not modify the state or local permit requirements.

Summary of proposed amendment:

- 1) Update the definition for 'cosmetic tattoo' to include the term 'microblading'.
- 2) Add new use to table 4.1 titled 'Body Art Establishment, limited' to be allowed as a special use permit with restrictions under OI zoning and allowed by right with restrictions under the HSB and BG zoning.

3) Add new use 'Body Art Establishment, limited' to table of uses and associated restrictions under Section 406. Restrictions on Principal Uses which limits the allowed procedures to cosmetic tattooing or microblading of the eyebrows and other features of the human face or head only.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

**Definition - Cosmetic Tattoo.** To mark or color the skin by pricking in, piercing, or implanting indelible pigments or dyes under the skin or mucosa. Cosmetic tattooing shall include permanent/semi-permanent cosmetics, micropigmentation, permanent color technology, microblading and micro-pigment implantation. Includes tattoo.

**Table 4.1 – Permitted Uses**

Use	AF	RS150, RS175, RS200	RS100	RS72	R36	MH	OI	HSB	BG	LM	HMI	HM2
<u>Body Art Establishment, limited</u>							<u>SU-R</u>	<u>A-R</u>	<u>A-R</u>			

**Section 406. Restrictions on principal uses.**

Use	Restrictions
Body Art Establishment, limited	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Body art procedures shall be limited to cosmetic tattooing or microblading of the eyebrows and other features of the human face and head only.</li> <li>2. All body art procedures shall be performed only within a body art parlor which is fully enclosed from all other areas within a body art studio by a minimum eight feet height opaque wall and an opaque door. No person under the age of 18 shall be allowed within a body art parlor except by permission of a parent or legal guardian with proper identification and accompanied by said parent or legal guardian.</li> <li>3. A limited body art establishment shall be subject to the rules and requirements of all other pertinent current and future federal, state, and local ordinances for a body art establishment, unless superseded herein.</li> </ol>