

ORDINANCE NO: 2023 - 14

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRISTOL, CHAPTER 205 ZONING CREATING A RECOVERY HOUSE USE

WHEREAS, the Council of the Township of Bristol is empowered to adopt Ordinances of the Township pursuant to the Pennsylvania First Class Township Code, 53 P.S. § 56502; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code authorizes the Township of Bristol to regulate permitted uses through zoning to protect the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens and businesses of the Township of Bristol, 53 P.S. § 10604; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Township of Bristol finds the regular inspection of recovery homes is necessary and in the interests of the public health, safety and general welfare of the public and of the residents of recovery homes while providing for a reasonable number of locations and zones for such establishments to locate within the Township of Bristol;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRISTOL:

1. Section 205-16(A)(10) shall be amended by:

- a. Deleting subsection (d) in its entirety; and
- b. Amending subsection (f) to read as follows:

(f) A request for a reasonable accommodation for this use as required under the Federal Fair Housing Act, as amended, by providing an exception to the maximum number of unrelated persons living in a dwelling unit and/or restriction to the R-1, Commercial or Neighborhood Commercial districts only, shall automatically be granted if the following standards and conditions are met:

- [1] All requirements under subsections (A)(9)(a) through (d) of this section;
- [2] In R-2 through R-4 districts, group homes shall have 10 or fewer residents;
- [3] A property containing a group home shall be a minimum distance of 300 feet from any other property containing a group home.

2. Section 205-16(A) shall be amended by adding new subsection (11) A10 Recovery House:

A10 Recovery House. A recovery house is a use where any number of individuals reside together either by court order or voluntarily in order to recover from drug, alcohol and/or substance abuse which serves as a

transitional environment between rehabilitation facilities and reintegration into their future lives. This definition shall also include sober houses, or sober living environments. This term does not include roomers, boarders, lodgers, members of a family (except those protected as suffering from a "handicap" under the provisions of Sections 3602(h) and 3604 of the Fair Housing Act) or any other use otherwise defined, described or regulated in this chapter.

- (a) The applicable regulations of the United States of America, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and/or the County of Bucks governing this specific use shall be met.**
 - (b) All certifications and/or licenses issued by the United States of America, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and/or the County of Bucks for this specific use shall be obtained prior to the granting of a permit by the Zoning Officer.**
 - (c) The minimum space and occupancy requirements of § 120-6, Space and occupancy, of the Code of the Township of Bristol shall be met.**
 - (d) Prior to the issuance of any permit or certificate of occupancy, all recovery house operators must provide proof in a form acceptable to the Township that they are a member in good standing and in compliance with all the rules and/ or regulations of the following recovery home associations: Pennsylvania Alliance of Recovery Residences; the National Association of Recovery Houses; and the Bucks County Recovery House Association. Annually thereafter, each operator must provide similar proof that they remain a member in good standing and in compliance with all the rules and/or regulations of the recovery home associations listed in this paragraph.**
 - (e) The Township shall conduct inspections to ensure compliance with all subsections of this use.**
 - (f) A Recovery House may only be permitted in the R-1, C and NC Zoning Districts.**
3. Section 205-22(A) is amended to add use A10 Recovery House as a permitted use in the R-1 Residence District.
 4. Section 205-36(A) is amended to add use A10 Recovery House as a permitted use in the C Commercial District.
 5. Section 205-41(A) is amended to add use A10 Recovery House as a permitted use in the NC Neighborhood Commercial District.
 6. All provisions of the Code of the Township of Bristol inconsistent or in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency or conflict.
 7. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If any section, clause, sentence, part or provision hereof shall be held illegal, invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision of the court shall not affect or impair any of the remaining sections, clauses, sentences, parts or provisions of this Ordinance. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Council of the Township of Bristol that this

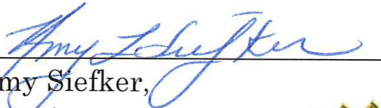
Ordinance would have been adopted if such illegal, invalid or unconstitutional section, clause, sentence, part or provision had not been included herein.

8. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately.

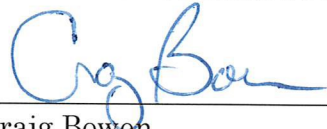
ORDAINED AND ENACTED this 21st day of December 2023.

Attest:

COUNCIL OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BRISTOL



Amy Siefker,
Secretary


By: 

Craig Bowen,
Council President



CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Ordinance enacted by the Bristol Township Council on December 21, 2023.


Amy Siefker, Secretary