

BILL NO. 55-2013
AN ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY CODE BOOK, CHAPTER 396,
CREATING A NEW PART 500 MEMORIAL STRUCTURES ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF READING HEREBY ORDAINS AS
FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Amending the City Code Book, Chapter 396, by creating a new Part 500 to address the placement and maintenance of memorial structures on public property, as attached in Exhibit A.

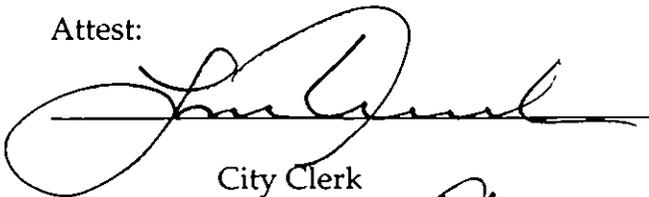
SECTION 2. This ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after its adoption in accordance with Sections 219 and 221 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter.

Enacted Nov 12, 2013



President of Council

Attest:



City Clerk

I, LINDA A. KELLEHER, City Clerk of the City of Reading, Pa., do hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original Ordinance passed by the Council of the City of Reading, on the 12 day of Nov A. D. 20 13. Witness my hand and seal of the said City this 13 day of Nov A. D. 20 13.



CITY CLERK

Submitted to Mayor: _____
Date: 11/13/13

Received by Mayor's Office: _____
Date: 11/13/13

Approved by Mayor: 
Date: 11/13/13

Vetoed by Mayor: _____
Date: _____

EXHIBIT A

PART 5

MEMORIAL STRUCTURES ON PUBLIC PROPERTY

§ 396-501. Evaluation of Proposed Monuments, Statuary, Markers and Plaques.

- (a) Any organization or entity wishing to place upon public property an any artwork, artwork installation, monument, statue, marker or plaque (the memorial structure) for the purpose of memorializing an individual, group, or event, shall submit such proposal to the Director of Public Works.
- (b) A Memorial Review Committee (the MRC) shall have the responsibility of reviewing each such proposal. The Committee shall be composed of the Historic Preservation Specialist, a City Planner, the Public Works Operations Division Manager, the City Clerk; and the Director of the Berks County Office of Veterans Affairs. The Director of Public Works shall appoint a MRC chairperson from the membership.
- (c) The MRC shall provide a written evaluation of each proposal based on the following factors: the suitability of the proposed location of the memorial structure; the appropriateness of the design thereof; the appropriateness and anticipated longevity of the proposed material comprising the memorial; the proposers' plan and ability for long-term maintenance and upkeep of the memorial; and provisions for insuring the memorial against damage, vandalism and disrepair. In addition, if the proposed location of a memorial structure has been subject to a master- or comprehensive-planning initiative, the proposed memorial should be in comport with any such valid plan. The MRC shall provide this written evaluation to City Council with a recommendation.
- (d) At its discretion, the MRC may request the approval for or advice of a proposed memorial structure from the Planning Commission.
- (e) Any proposed memorial structure located within or immediately adjacent to a designated historic or conservation district shall be subject to the advance approval of the Historic Architectural Review Board.
- (f) Approval of the placement or relocation of any memorial structure shall require the approval of City Council.

§ 396-502. Maintenance of Existing Memorial Structures.

- (a) It shall be the policy of the City of Reading that the maintenance and upkeep of any memorial structure shall be the responsibility of the entity placing such approved structure on public property. A plan for the perpetual care thereof shall be specified in a memorandum of understanding to which the Director of Public Works shall be a party.
- (b) In the event a memorial structure falls into disrepair and is not promptly repaired, at the sole discretion of the Director of Public Works, the city may remove such structure and dispose of it.

(c) The MRC shall have purview over existing memorial structures and may promulgate policies and programs that encourage their perpetual care, upkeep and repair with little or no public expense.

§ 396-503. A Moratorium

The Council of the City of Reading places a moratorium on the placement of any additional memorial structure on public lands. The moratorium shall commence on December 1, 2013 and shall continue until such date when the Council may chose to rescind this section.