

§ LD-12-29 **STORMWATER CONTROL.**

[Ord. No. 2006-1423, Ord. No. 07-1478; Ord. No. 2021-1872; Ord. No. 2021-1888; amended 4-29-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-1998; 9-23-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-2005]

§ LD-12-29.1 **Scope and Purpose.**

[Amended 4-29-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-1998; 9-23-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-2005]

- a. **Policy Statement.** Flood control, groundwater recharge, and pollutant reduction shall be achieved through the use of stormwater management measures, including green infrastructure Best Management Practices (GI BMPs) and nonstructural stormwater management strategies. GI BMPs should be utilized to meet the goal of maintaining natural hydrology to reduce stormwater runoff volume, reduce erosion, encourage infiltration and groundwater recharge, and reduce pollution. GI BMPs should be developed based upon physical site conditions and the origin, nature and the anticipated quantity, or amount, of potential pollutants. Multiple stormwater management BMPs may be necessary to achieve the established performance standards for green infrastructure, water quality, quantity, and groundwater recharge.
- b. **Purpose.** The purpose of this section is to establish minimum stormwater management requirements and controls for "major development" and "minor development," as defined below in § LD-12-29.2.
- c. **Applicability.**
  1. This section shall be applicable to all projects that meet the definition of "minor development" or "major development" as defined below.
  2. This section shall be applicable to the following major developments:
    - (a) Non-residential major developments and redevelopment projects; and
    - (b) Aspects of residential major developments and redevelopment projects that are not pre-empted by the Residential Site Improvement Standards at N.J.A.C. 5:21 et seq.
  3. This section shall also be applicable to all major developments undertaken by Borough of Bernardsville.
  4. Applicability of this section to major developments shall comply with last amended N.J.A.C. 7:8-1.6, incorporated herein by reference and minor developments as defined herein.
- d. **Compatibility with Other Permit and Ordinance Requirements.** Development approvals issued pursuant to this ordinance are to be considered an integral part of development approvals and do not relieve the applicant of the responsibility to secure required permits or approvals for activities regulated by any other applicable code, rule, act, or ordinance. In their interpretation and application, the provisions of this section shall be held to be the minimum requirements for the promotion of the public health, safety, and general welfare.
- e. This section is not intended to interfere with, abrogate, or annul any other ordinances, rule or regulation, statute, or other provision of law except that, where any provision of this ordinance imposes restrictions different from those imposed by any other ordinance, rule or regulation, or other provision of law, the more restrictive provisions or higher standards shall control.

§ LD-12-29.2 **Definitions.**

[Amended 4-29-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-1998; 9-23-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-2005]

For the purpose of this section, the following terms, phrases, words and their derivations shall have the meanings stated herein unless their use in the text of this section clearly demonstrates a different meaning. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words used in the plural number include the singular number, and words used in the singular number include the plural number. The word "shall" is always mandatory and not merely directory. The definitions used in this section shall be the same as the last amended Stormwater Management Rules at N.J.A.C. 7:8-1.2, incorporated herein by reference. The following additional terms are defined for this section only.

**EXEMPT DEVELOPMENT**

Any development that creates less than 500 square feet of roof area and less than 1,000 square feet of new impervious area in total and disturbs less than 2,500 square feet of land. Further, an exempt development shall not meet the definition of "minor development."

**MAJOR DEVELOPMENT (repeated from N.J.A.C. 7:8)**

An individual "development," as well as multiple developments that individually or collectively result in:

- a. The disturbance of one or more acres of land since February 2, 2004;
- b. The creation of 1/4 acre or more of "regulated impervious surface" since February 2, 2004;
- c. The creation of 1/4 acre or more of "regulated motor vehicle surface" since March 2, 2021; or
- d. A combination of paragraph b and c above that totals an area of 1/4 acre or more. The same surface shall not be counted twice when determining if the combination area equals 1/4 acre or more.

Major development includes all developments that are part of a common plan of development or sale (for example, phased residential development) that collectively or individually meet any one or more of paragraphs a, b, c, or d above. Projects undertaken by any government agency that otherwise meet the definition of "major development" but which do not require approval under the Municipal Land Use Law, N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1 et seq., are also considered "major development."



## MINOR DEVELOPMENT

Any development that results in the creation of 500 square feet of roof area or 1,000 square feet or more of new impervious area in total or one that disturbs more than 2,500 square feet of land area. Further, a minor development shall not meet the definition of "major development" in N.J.A.C. 7:8.

### § LD-12-29.3 Design and Performance Standards for Stormwater Management Measures.

[Amended 4-29-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-1998; 9-23-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-2005]

This section establishes design and performance standards for stormwater management measures for minor and major development intended to minimize the adverse impact of stormwater runoff on water quality and water quantity and loss of groundwater recharge in receiving water bodies.

- a. Exempt Developments. Any project meeting the definition of "exempt development" shall be exempt from the provisions of this section.
- b. Minor Developments. Minor developments shall be designed to include the following stormwater management measures:  
Water Quality. Soil erosion and sediment control measures shall be installed in accordance with the Standards for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control in New Jersey.  
Rate/Volume Control. Seepage pits or other infiltration measures shall be provided with a capacity of three inches of runoff for each square foot of new impervious area. Stone used in infiltration devices shall be 2 1/2 inches clean stone and a design void ratio of 33% shall be used. The infiltration measures shall be designed with an overflow to the surface which shall be stabilized and directed to an existing stormwater conveyance system or in a manner to keep the overflow on the developed property to the greatest extent feasible. If the new impervious surface is not roof area, an equivalent area of existing roof may be directed to the infiltration system. This shall be permitted where the equivalent existing roof area is not already directed to an infiltration device.
- c. Major Developments. Design and performance standards for stormwater management measures shall comply with last amended N.J.A.C. 7:8-5, incorporated herein by reference.

### § LD-12-29.4 Waivers and Exceptions.

[Amended 4-29-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-1998; 9-23-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-2005]

- a. Standards for Relief of Minor Development.
  1. Waivers from strict compliance with the design standards for minor development shall only be granted upon showing that meeting the standards would result in an exceptional hardship on the applicant or that the benefits to the public good of the deviation from the standards would outweigh any detriments of the deviation. A hardship will not be considered to exist if reasonable reductions in the scope of the project would eliminate the noncompliance.
  2. If the review agency for the project determines that a waiver is appropriate, the applicant must execute mitigation. The scope of the mitigation shall be commensurate with the size of the project and the magnitude of relief required. The mitigation project may be taken from the list of projects in the Municipal Stormwater Management Plan or another project identified by the applicant. In lieu of undertaking a specific mitigation project, a monetary contribution may be made to the Municipality for funding toward a municipal stormwater control project, subject to the approval of the review agency. All mitigation projects are subject to the approval of the Municipal Engineer.
- b. Standards for relief of Major Development. Waivers from strict compliance with the design and performance standards for major development shall meet the requirements N.J.A.C. 7:8-4.6.
- c. Review Agency. All applications subject to the review of the Planning Board or Board of Adjustment shall be reviewed by those Boards concurrently with subdivision or site plan review. Applications not subject to Planning Board or Board of Adjustment review shall be reviewed by the Borough Engineer.
- d. Appeals. The appeal of the determination of the Borough Engineer shall be made in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70a.

### § LD-12-29.5 Solids and Floatable Materials Control Standards (Major Development).

[Amended 4-29-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-1998; 9-23-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-2005]

- a. Site design features identified under § LD-12-29.3 above, or alternative designs in accordance with § LD-12-29.3 above, to prevent discharge of trash and debris from drainage systems shall comply with the following standard to control passage of solid and floatable materials through storm drain inlets. For purposes of this paragraph, "solid and floatable materials" means sediment, debris, trash, and other floating, suspended, or settleable solids. For exemptions to this standard see § LD-12-29.5a2 below.
  1. Design engineers shall use one of the following grates whenever they use a grate in pavement or another ground surface to collect stormwater from that surface into a storm drain or surface water body under that grate:
    - (a) The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) bicycle safe grate, which is described in Chapter 2.4 of the NJDOT Bicycle Compatible Roadways and Bikeways Planning and Design Guide lines; or
    - (b) A different grate, if each individual clear space in that grate has an area of no more than seven square inches, or is no greater than 0.5 inches across the smallest dimension. Note that the Residential Site Improvement Standards at N.J.A.C. 5:21 include requirements for bicycle safe grates.  
Examples of grates subject to this standard include grates in grate inlets, the grate portion (non-curb-opening portion) of combination inlets, grates on storm sewer manholes, ditch grates, trench grates, and grates of spacer bars in slotted drains. Examples of ground surfaces include surfaces of roads (including bridges), driveways, parking areas, bikeways, plazas, sidewalks, lawns, fields, open channels, and stormwater system floors used to collect stormwater from the surface into a storm drain or surface water body.
    - (c) For curb-opening inlets, including curb-opening inlets in combination inlets, the clear space in that curb opening, or each individual clear space if the curb opening has two or more clear spaces, shall have an area of no more than seven square inches, or be no greater than two inches across the smallest dimension.

2. The standard in § LD-12-29.5a1 above does not apply:
  - (a) Where each individual clear space in the curb opening in existing curb-opening inlet does not have an area of more than nine square inches;
  - (b) Where the municipality agrees that the standards would cause inadequate hydraulic performance that could not practicably be overcome by using additional or larger storm drain inlets;
  - (c) Where flows from the water quality design storm as specified in the last amended Stormwater Management rules at N.J.A.C. 7:8 et seq. are conveyed through any device (e.g., end of pipe netting facility, manufactured treatment device, or a catch basin hood) that is designed, at a minimum, to prevent delivery of all solid and floatable materials that could not pass through one of the following:
    - (1) A rectangular space four and five-eighths (4.625) inches long and 1.5 inches wide (this option does not apply for out fall netting facilities); or
    - (2) A bar screen having a bar spacing of 0.5 inches.

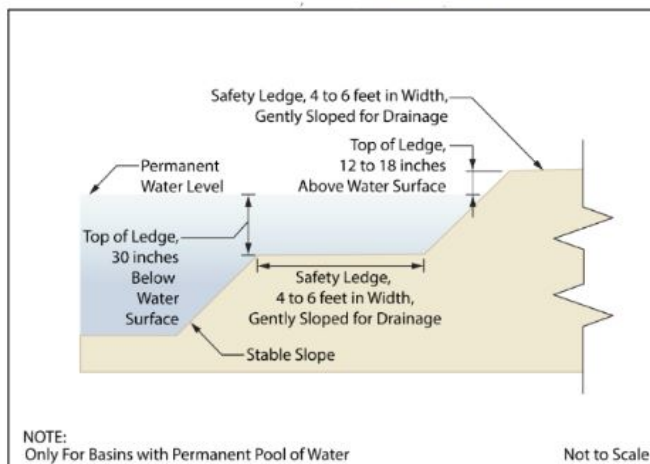
Note that these exemptions do not authorize any infringement of requirements in the Residential Site Improvement Standards for bicycle safe grates in new residential development (N.J.A.C. 5:21-4.18(b)2 and 7.4(b)1).
  - (d) Where flows are conveyed through a trash rack that has parallel bars with one-inch spacing between the bars, to the elevation of the Water Quality Design Storm as specified in N.J.A.C. 7:8; or
  - (e) Where the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection determines, pursuant to the New Jersey Register of Historic Places Rules at N.J.A.C. 7:4-7.2(c), that action to meet this standard is an undertaking that constitutes an encroachment or will damage or destroy the New Jersey Register listed historic property.

§ LD-12-29.6 **Safety Standards for Stormwater Management Basins.**

[Amended 4-29-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-1998; 9-23-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-2005]

- a. This subsection sets forth requirements to protect public safety through the proper design and operation of stormwater management basins. This subsection applies to any new stormwater management basin. Safety standards for stormwater management measures shall comply with last amended N.J.A.C. 7:8-6, incorporated herein by reference.
- b. Safety Ledge Illustration.

**Elevation View -Basin Safety Ledge Configuration**



§ LD-12-29.7 **Requirements for a Site Development Stormwater Plan (Major Development).**

[Amended 4-29-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-1998; 9-23-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-2005]

- a. Submission of a Site Development Stormwater Plan.
  1. Whenever an applicant seeks municipal approval of a development subject to this ordinance, the applicant shall submit a Site Development Stormwater Plan containing all of the required components listed at LD-12-29.7c below as part of the submission of the application for approval.
  2. The applicant shall demonstrate that the project meets the standards set forth in this section.
  3. When the submission of a Site Development Stormwater Plan is part of an application being reviewed as part of the review process by the Planning Board or Board of Adjustment, the number of copies of the documents listed in § LD-12-29.7c shall be as required by the appropriate application review checklist.
  4. When the submission of a Site Development Stormwater Plan is being reviewed by the Borough Engineer, the applicant shall submit three copies of the materials listed in § LD-12-29.7c to the building department for distribution.
- b. Site Development Stormwater Plan Approval.
 

The applicant's Site Development project shall be reviewed as a part of the review process by the municipal board or official from which municipal approval is sought. The municipal board or official shall consult the Borough Engineer to determine if all of the submission requirements have been satisfied and to determine if the project meets the standards set forth in this section.



c. Submission of Site Development Stormwater Plan.

The following information shall be required:

1. Topographic Base Map. The topographic base map for the site being developed shall extend a minimum of 200 feet beyond the limits of the proposed development, at a scale of one inch equals 100 feet or greater, showing two-foot contour intervals. Upstream tributary drainage information shall be required when deemed necessary by the reviewing engineer. The topographic base map shall include existing surface water drainage, shorelines, steep slopes, soils, erodible soils, perennial or intermittent streams that drain into or upstream of the Category One waters, wetlands and flood plains along with their appropriate buffer strips, marshlands and other wetlands, pervious or vegetative surfaces, existing man-made structures, roads, bearing and distances of property lines, and significant natural and manmade features not otherwise shown.
2. Environmental Site Analysis.  
A written and graphic description of the natural and man-made features of the site and its surroundings that includes a discussion of soil conditions, slopes, wetlands, waterways and vegetation on the site, with particular attention given to unique, unusual, or environmentally sensitive features and to those that provide particular opportunities or constraints for development shall be submitted.
3. Project Description and Site Plans.  
A map (or maps) at the scale of the topographical base map indicating the location of existing and proposed buildings roads, parking areas, utilities, structural facilities for stormwater management and sediment control, and other permanent structures shall be provided. The map(s) shall also clearly show areas where alterations will occur in the natural terrain and cover, including lawns and other landscaping, and seasonal high groundwater elevations. A written description of the site plan and justification for proposed changes in natural conditions shall also be provided.
4. Land Use Planning and Source Control Plan.  
This plan shall provide a demonstration of how the goals and standards of § LD-12-29.3 are being met. The focus of this plan shall be to describe how the site is being developed to meet the objective of controlling groundwater recharge, stormwater quality and stormwater quantity problems at the source by land management and source controls whenever possible.
5. Stormwater Management Facilities Map.  
The following information, illustrated on a map at a scale no smaller than one inch equals 50 feet, where the larger the second number, the smaller the scale, shall be included:
  - (a) Total area to be disturbed, paved or built upon, proposed surface contours, land area to be occupied by the stormwater management facilities and the type of vegetation thereon, and details of the proposed plan to control and dispose of stormwater.
  - (b) Details of all stormwater management facility designs, during and after construction, including discharge provisions, discharge capacity for each outlet at different levels of detention and emergency spillway provisions with maximum discharge capacity of each spillway.
6. Calculations.
  - (a) Comprehensive hydrologic and hydraulic design calculations for the predevelopment and post-development conditions for the design storms specified in § LD-12-29.3.
  - (b) When the proposed stormwater management control measures depend on the hydrologic properties of soils or require certain separation from the seasonal high-water table, then a soils report shall be submitted. The soils report shall be based on onsite boring logs or soil pit profiles. The number and location of required soil borings or soil pits shall be determined based on what is needed to determine the suitability and distribution of soils present at the location of the control measure.
7. Maintenance and Repair Plan.  
The design and planning of the stormwater management facility shall meet the maintenance requirements of Section LD-12-29.9.
8. Waiver from Submission Requirements.  
The municipal official or land use board reviewing an application under this ordinance may, in consultation with the Borough Engineer or the Borough's stormwater review engineer, waive submission of any of the requirements in § LD-12-29.7.c.1 through § LD-12-29.7.c.6 of this ordinance when it can be demonstrated that the information requested is impossible to obtain or it would create a hardship on the applicant to obtain and its absence will not materially affect the review process.
9. Application and Review Fees.  
There shall be no additional initial escrow fees required for stormwater review for development applications being reviewed as part of an application to the Planning Board or the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Applications for stormwater management review to the Borough Engineer shall be accompanied by an initial review escrow deposit of \$1,000 for major developments. If a project is approved, an inspection escrow deposit shall be made in an amount to be determined by the Borough Engineer in accordance with § LD-15-5, but in no case shall said inspection escrow be less than \$500.



§ LD-12-29.8 **Requirements for a Site Development Stormwater Plan (Minor Development).**

[Amended 4-29-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-1998; 9-23-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-2005]

a. The following information shall be required:

1. **Topographic Base Map.** The topographic base map for the site being developed shall extend a minimum of 50 feet beyond the limits of the proposed development, at a scale of one inch equals 50 feet or greater, showing two-foot contour intervals. Upstream tributary drainage information shall be required when deemed necessary by the reviewing engineer. The topographic base map shall include existing surface water drainage, shorelines, steep slopes, soils, erodible soils, perennial or intermittent streams that drain into or upstream of the Category One waters, wetlands and flood plains along with their appropriate buffer strips, marshlands and other wetlands, pervious or vegetative surfaces, existing man-made structures, roads, bearing and distances of property lines, and significant natural and manmade features not otherwise shown.
2. **Project Description and Site Plans.** A map (or maps) at the scale of the topographical base map indicating the location of existing and proposed buildings roads, parking areas, utilities, structural facilities for stormwater management and sediment control, and other permanent structures. The map(s) shall also clearly show areas where alterations will occur in the natural terrain and cover, including lawns and other landscaping.
3. **Stormwater Management Facilities Map.**

The following information, illustrated on a map at a scale no smaller than one inch equals 50 feet, where the larger the second number, the smaller the scale, shall be included:

- (a) Total area to be disturbed, paved or built upon, proposed surface contours, land area to be occupied by the stormwater management facilities and the type of vegetation thereon, and details of the proposed plan to control and dispose of stormwater.
- (b) Details of all stormwater management facility designs.

4. Calculations demonstrating compliance with the minor development standards of § LD-12-29.3b must be submitted.
5. Waiver from Submission Requirements.

The Borough Engineer may waive submission of any of the requirements in § LD-12-29.8a.1 through § LD-12-29.8a.4 when it can be demonstrated that the information requested is impossible to obtain or it would create a hardship on the applicant to obtain and its absence will not materially affect the review process.

6. **Application and Review Fees.**

There shall be no additional initial escrow fees required for stormwater review for development applications being reviewed as part of an application to the Planning Board or the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Applications to the Borough Engineer shall be accompanied by an initial review escrow deposit of \$300 for minor developments. If a project is approved, an inspection escrow deposit shall be made in the amount of \$500.

§ LD-12-29.9 **Maintenance, Repair and Operation.**

[Amended 4-29-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-1998; 9-23-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-2005]

a. **Applicability.**

Projects subject to review as in § LD-12-29.1 (major development) shall comply with the requirements of § LD-12-29.9b and § LD-12-29.9c. Projects subject to review as in § LD-12-29.3b (minor development) shall comply with the requirements of § LD-12-29.9d.

b. **General Maintenance.**

1. Maintenance for stormwater management measures shall comply with last amended N.J.A.C. 7:8-5.8, incorporated herein by reference.
2. The following requirements of N.J.A.C. 7:8-5.8 do not apply to stormwater management facilities that are dedicated to and accepted by the municipality or another governmental agency, subject to all applicable municipal stormwater general permit conditions, as issued by the Department:
  - (a) If the maintenance plan identifies a person other than the property owner (for example, a developer, a public agency or homeowners' association) as having the responsibility for maintenance, the plan shall include documentation of such person's or entity's agreement to assume this responsibility, or of the owner's obligation to dedicate a stormwater management facility to such person under an applicable ordinance or regulation; and
  - (b) Responsibility for maintenance shall not be assigned or transferred to the owner or tenant of an individual property in a residential development or project, unless such owner or tenant owns or leases the entire residential development or project. The individual property owner may be assigned incidental tasks, such as weeding of a green infrastructure BMP, provided the individual agrees to assume these tasks; however, the individual cannot be legally responsible for all of the maintenance required.

In the event that the stormwater management facility becomes a danger to public safety or public health, or if it is in need of maintenance or repair, the municipality shall so notify the responsible person in writing. Upon receipt of that notice, the responsible person shall have 14 days to effect maintenance and repair of the facility in a manner that is approved by the municipal engineer or his designee. The municipality, in its discretion, may extend the time allowed for effecting maintenance and repair for good cause. If the responsible person fails or refuses to perform such maintenance and repair, the municipality or County may immediately proceed to do so and shall bill the cost thereof to the responsible person. Nonpayment of such bill may result in a lien on the property.

- c. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude the municipality in which the major development is located from requiring the posting of a performance or maintenance guarantee in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:55D-53.
- d. Present and future owners of property containing privately owned stormwater management facilities designed to meet the standards for minor development are required to ensure adequate long-term operation and maintenance of such facilities in accordance with a Stormwater Management Operations and Maintenance Manual and the following:
  - 1. The Stormwater Management Operations and Maintenance Manual shall contain a description of the project, including the amount of land disturbance and the amount of new impervious surface being created; ownership and maintenance responsibilities; specific inspection and maintenance tasks, including a requirement to inspect all structural components for cracking, subsidence, spalling, erosion and deterioration at least annually; to at least once a year, measure and record the water level in the facility after a heavy rain fall event in order to determine the time to drain; preventative and corrective maintenance measures; and inspection and maintenance log forms.
  - 2. Inspection and maintenance log forms are required to be submitted to the Borough Engineer and the Public Works Manager by April 1 of every third year. The Borough Administrator shall notify the property owner of the requirement by March 1st of the applicable year in accordance with the following schedule:
    - (a) Reporting Group A: Tax Blocks 1 through 28 reports due by April 1 for the prior year activity, every third year beginning in the year 2025 and then in 2028, 2031, 2034 ...
    - (b) Reporting Group B: Tax Blocks 29 through 68 reports due by April 1 for the prior year activity, every third year beginning in the year 2026 and then in 2029, 2032, 2035 ...
    - (c) Reporting Group C: Tax Blocks 69 through 146 reports due by April 1 for the prior year activity, every third year beginning in the year 2024 and then in 2027, 2030, 2033 ...
  - 3. If the owner of a property with stormwater management facilities designed and installed to meet the standards for a Minor Development fails to meet the reporting requirement 20 days after a final notice, the Borough Engineer shall conduct said inspection and a fee of \$250 will be assessed for the performance of said inspection.
  - 4. The responsibility to ensure that future owners of property containing stormwater management facilities are aware of such facilities and the requirement to maintain the facilities shall be borne by the present owner of the property containing the stormwater management facilities. The present owner of stormwater management facilities should provide a copy of the Stormwater Management Operations and Maintenance Manual, prior to the transfer of title, to the future owner. Alternatively, the requirement for long-term operation, maintenance and repair of the stormwater management facilities, in accordance with the SWM O&M Manual, can be recorded upon the deed of record for the property by the present owner.
  - 5. If the stormwater facilities are not adequately maintained by the private owners, the Borough shall retain the right to perform the required maintenance and charge the private entity accordingly. This access shall be part of all drainage easements on private property.

**§ LD-12-29.10 Penalties.**

[Amended 4-29-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-1998; 9-23-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-2005]

Any person who erects, constructs, alters, repairs, converts, maintains, or uses any building, structure or land in violation of this article shall be subject to a penalty as stated in Article 16 Violations and Penalties, General Penalty § LD-16.3 et seq. Each and every day in which a person shall be in violation of this article shall constitute a separate offense.

**§ LD-12-29.11 Severability.**

[Amended 4-29-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-1998; 9-23-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-2005]

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