BOROUGH OF PARK RIDGE
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-031

NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION

AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE SECTIONS 101-34(C)(8) OF THE BOROUGH CODE

WHEREAS, on May 27, 2014, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Park Ridge adopted Ordinance 2014-010, which, in part, banned the posting of political signs on public property [Codified as Section 101-34(C)(8) of the Borough Code], but did not bar other types of non-commercial "sidewalk signs" from being placed on public property; and

WHEREAS, that subsequent to the passage of Ordinance 2014-010, in 2015 the Borough received complaints from residents regarding political signs on public property, but after consulting with the then Borough Attorney, ceased enforcement of the restrictions on political signage being placed on public property contained within Section 101-34(C)(8) of the Borough Code, since they are violative of the United States Constitution's First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, on February 25, 2025, the Borough Attorney advised the Mayor and Council that if it permitted religious displays on public property that it could not restrict political signs on said property and thereafter the Borough Council voted to continue to permit religious displays on public property within the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has not restricted people from placing signs on public property for non-commercial purposes, such as for religious institutions and private non-profit events (such as for 5K walk-run events); and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court in Reed v. Town of Gilbert, 576 U.S. 155 (2018) ruled that religious and political signage must be treated equally under the law and thereby invalidated Section 101-34(C)(8) of the Borough Code; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has determined that there is a need to amend Section 101-34(C)(8) of the Borough Code to conform with Reed v. Town of Gilbert, 576 U.S. 155 (2018) and the Borough's policy regarding signage on public property which has been in place since 2015 and thereafter confirmed by the Borough's Mayor and Council on February 25, 2025.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Park Ridge, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey**,** as follows:

Section 1. Section 101-34(C)(8) of the Code of the Borough of Park Ridge is hereby repealed and replaced by the following:

8. Election or political signs, as well as signs for non-profit entities and charities, provided that said signs do not exceed 16 square feet in area. Nothing in this section shall be construed to

permit commercial signs to be placed on public property.

Section 2. If any part of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the Ordinance.

Section 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed or amended to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall be submitted to the Planning Board of the Borough of Park Ridge for master plan consistency review within 35 days of this Ordinance's introduction in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:55D-26, prior to adoption by the Mayor and Council.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication according to law.

BY ORDER OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
Magdalena Giandomenico, CMC
Borough Clerk