



# City of Philadelphia

City Council  
Chief Clerk's Office  
402 City Hall  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

**BILL NO. 260060**

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**Introduced January 29, 2026**

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**Councilmember Brooks**

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## **AN ORDINANCE**

Amending Title 10 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Regulation of Individual Conduct and Activity," to prohibit law enforcement officers from concealing their identity, require officers to visibly display their badge and other official identifying information, prohibit the impersonation of law enforcement officers, and provide for civil and criminal enforcement of violations, all under certain terms and conditions.

*THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA HEREBY ORDAINS:*

*SECTION 1. Title 10 of The Philadelphia Code is hereby amended to read as follows:*

### *TITLE 10. REGULATION OF INDIVIDUAL CONDUCT AND ACTIVITY*

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*SECTION 1. City Council hereby makes the following findings:*

- (1) It is the intent of this Council to define the structure of the scope of duty, as well as substantive obligations of local, state and federal law enforcement operating within the jurisdiction of the City of Philadelphia.*
- (2) Transparency in governmental actions, including for officers of the peace, is essential to create the trust between community members and agents of state, local, and federal government that is needed for public safety.*
- (3) Accountability to the public is an inherent attribute of a democracy, and the ability for members of the public to know basic information about agents of the state with minimal exemptions is vital in a democratic society. The need for accountability is heightened when state actors are granted policing power by the people. A state, local, and federal government that is accountable to the public is essential for democracy and safety.*

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- (4) *In order to properly protect people living in the City of Philadelphia, ensure transparency and accountability for local, state, and federal law enforcement, Council finds that the following legislation is necessary to the jurisdiction's safety and democracy.*

SECTION 2. Title 10 of The Philadelphia Code shall be amended to read as follows:

## CHAPTER 10-800. SAFETY.

\* \* \*

§ 10-843. *Criminal concealment by a law enforcement officer.*

(1) *Definitions. The following definitions shall apply to this Section:*

- (a) *Law Enforcement Officer. Any "peace officer" as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 501 (relating to definitions), including but not limited to local, state or federal officers.*

(2) *Except as provided in subsection (3), a law enforcement officer is guilty of criminal concealment if the law enforcement officer, while performing official duties and interacting with the public:*

(a) *Wears a mask, facial covering, disguise or any other garment that obscures the identity of the law enforcement officer, or fails to identify themselves to a subject of arrest, holding or detention;*

(b) *Intentionally obscures, covers, removes or otherwise conceals a badge, tag, label or other identifying information required to be visibly displayed;*

(c) *Uses a vehicle in the course of official duties that does not contain clear identifying information for the entity that employs the law enforcement officer which is visible to individuals other than such law enforcement officer; or*

(d) *Fails to provide identifying information upon request to the subject of an arrest after an arrest has been made.*

(3) *Exceptions.*

(a) *A law enforcement officer shall not be in violation of subsection (2)(a) if the officer:*

- (.1) *Wears a medical-grade mask or respirator necessary to prevent the transmission of airborne illnesses;*

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*(.2) Wears a mask for a religious purpose;*

*(.3) Wears protective equipment designed to safeguard the face or head issued as part of duties associated with a Special Weapons and Tactics team; or*

*(.4) Wears an item as a mask designed to protect against smoke or hazardous conditions during fire response or similar emergencies.*

*(b) A law enforcement officer shall not be in violation of subsection (2) if the law enforcement officer is engaged in an undercover assignment, approved by a supervisor, in which concealing identity is necessary for investigating criminal offenses.*

*(4) Grading. A violation of this section shall be a summary offense and upon conviction thereof, a violator shall be sentenced to pay a fine pursuant to Philadelphia Code § 1-109 per incident or undergo imprisonment for a period not exceeding ninety (90) days, or both, in addition to any other penalties imposed.*

*(5) Enforcement. The District Attorney shall have the right to bring an action in a court of competent jurisdiction in this Commonwealth against any law enforcement officer under this section.*

*(6) Severability. If any provision of this Chapter or application thereof to any person or circumstance is judged invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Chapter are declared severable.*

## *§ 10-844. Visible Badge Requirement.*

*(1) Definitions. The following definitions shall apply to this Section:*

*(a) Law Enforcement Officer. Any "peace officer" as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 501 (relating to definitions), including but not limited to local, state or federal officers.*

*(2) Except as provided in subsection (3), a law enforcement officer is guilty of criminal concealment if the law enforcement officer, while performing official duties and interacting with the public, fails to:*

*(a) Visibly display a badge, tag or label clearly identifying the name, rank, and entity that employs the law enforcement officer at all times;*

*(b) Identify themselves to a subject of arrest, holding or detention;*

*(b) Produce a badge, tag or label upon request; or*

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*(c) Use a vehicle that contains clear identifying information for the entity that employs the law enforcement officer which is visible to individuals other than such law enforcement officer.*

*(3) Exception. The provisions of subsection (2) shall not apply to a law enforcement officer engaged in an undercover assignment, approved by a supervisor, in which concealing identity is necessary for investigating criminal offenses.*

*(4) Grading. A violation of this section shall be a summary offense and upon conviction thereof, a violator shall be sentenced to pay a fine pursuant to Philadelphia Code § 1-109 per incident or undergo imprisonment for a period not exceeding ninety (90) days, or both, in addition to any other penalties imposed.*

*(5) Enforcement. The District Attorney shall have the right to bring an action in a court of competent jurisdiction in this Commonwealth against any law enforcement officer under this section.*

*(6) Severability. If any provision of this Chapter or application thereof to any person or circumstance is judged invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Chapter are declared severable.*

*§ 10-845. Tortious Concealment by a Law Enforcement Officer.*

*(1) Definitions. The following definitions shall apply to this Section:*

*(a) Law Enforcement Officer. Any "peace officer" as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 501 (relating to definitions), including but not limited to local, state or federal officers.*

*(2) Any person arrested in the City of Philadelphia has the right to know the identity of the arresting officer unless the officer qualifies for an exception under subsection (3). Except as provided in subsection (3), a law enforcement officer is liable for tortious concealment if the law enforcement officer, while performing official duties and interacting with the public,*

*(a) Wears a mask, facial covering, disguise or any other garment that obscures the identity of the law enforcement officer, or fails to identify themselves to a subject of arrest, holding or detention;*

*(b) Intentionally obscures, covers, removes or otherwise conceals a badge, tag, label or other identifying information required to be visibly displayed; or*

*(c) Uses a vehicle in the course of official duties that does not contain clear identifying information for the entity that employs the law enforcement officer which is visible to*

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*individuals other than such law enforcement officer.*

*(3) Exceptions.*

*(a) A law enforcement officer shall not be in violation of subsection (2)(a) if the officer:*

*(.1) Wears a medical-grade mask or respirator necessary to prevent the transmission of airborne illnesses;*

*(.2) Wears a mask for a religious purpose;*

*(.3) Wears protective equipment designed to safeguard the face or head issued as part of duties associated with a Special Weapons and Tactics team; or*

*(.4) Wears an item as a mask designed to protect against smoke or hazardous conditions during fire response or similar emergencies.*

*(b) A law enforcement officer shall not be in violation of subsection (2) if the law enforcement officer is engaged in an undercover assignment, approved by a supervisor, in which concealing identity is necessary for investigating criminal offenses.*

*(4) Private right of action. The City Solicitor or any individual aggrieved by a violation of this Chapter or any entity a member of which is aggrieved by a violation of this Chapter may bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction against a person violating this Chapter. The limitations period for a civil action brought pursuant to this Section shall be three (3) years from the date the complainant knew or should have known of the alleged violation.*

*(5) Remedies: A court of competent jurisdiction may order the following remedies:*

*(a) An order requiring the county, city, department or agency to cease and desist the unlawful practice;*

*(b) Payment of compensatory or punitive damages, provided that an aggrieved person shall make a reasonable effort to mitigate any damages;*

*(c) Payment of reasonable attorney fees;*

*(d) Payment of court costs;*

*(e) Payment of a fine not to exceed two thousand dollars for each violation (\$2,000); and*

*(f) Other equitable relief, including, but not limited to, the dismissal or removal from office of the law enforcement officer.*

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(6) *Severability.* If any provision of this Chapter or application thereof to any person or circumstance is judged invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Chapter are declared severable.

§ 10-846. *Tortious Failure to Make an Identifying Badge Visible.*

(1) *Definitions.* The following definitions shall apply to this Section:

(a) *Law Enforcement Officer.* Any "peace officer" as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 501 (relating to definitions), including but not limited to local, state or federal officers.

(2) *Except as provided in subsection (3), a law enforcement officer is liable for tortious failure to make an identifying badge visible if the law enforcement officer, while performing official duties and interacting with the public, fails to:*

(a) *Visibly display a badge, tag or label clearly identifying the name, rank, and entity that employs the law enforcement officer at all times;*

(b) *Produce a badge, tag or label upon request; or*

(c) *Use a vehicle that contains clear identifying information for the entity that employs the law enforcement officer which is visible to individuals other than such law enforcement officer.*

(3) *Exception.* The provisions of subsection (2) shall not apply to a law enforcement officer engaged in an undercover assignment, approved by a supervisor, in which concealing identity is necessary for investigating criminal offenses.

(4) *Private right of action.* The City Solicitor or any individual aggrieved by a violation of this Chapter or any entity a member of which is aggrieved by a violation of this Chapter may bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction against a person violating this Chapter. The limitations period for a civil action brought pursuant to this Section shall be three (3) years from the date the complainant knew or should have known of the alleged violation.

(5) *Remedies:* A court of competent jurisdiction may order the following remedies:

(a) *An order requiring the county, city, department or agency to cease and desist the unlawful practice;*

(b) *Payment of compensatory or punitive damages, provided that an aggrieved person shall make a reasonable effort to mitigate any damages;*

(c) *Payment of reasonable attorney fees;*

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*(d) Payment of court costs;*

*(e) Payment of a fine not to exceed two thousand dollars for each violation (\$2,000); and*

*(f) Other equitable relief, including, but not limited to, the dismissal or removal from office of the law enforcement officer.*

*(6) Severability. If any provision of this Chapter or application thereof to any person or circumstance is judged invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Chapter are declared severable.*

*§ 10-847. Tortious Impersonation of Law Enforcement Officers.*

*(1) Definitions. The following definitions shall apply to this Section:*

*(a) Law Enforcement Officer. Any "peace officer" as defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 501 (relating to definitions), including but not limited to local, state or federal officers.*

*(2) No person shall falsely personate by uniform, insignia or otherwise any law enforcement officer.*

*(3) Private right of action. The City Solicitor or any individual aggrieved by a violation of this Chapter or any entity a member of which is aggrieved by a violation of this Chapter may bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction against a person violating this Chapter. The limitations period for a civil action brought pursuant to this Section shall be three (3) years from the date the complainant knew or should have known of the alleged violation.*

*(4) Remedies. A court of competent jurisdiction may order the following remedies:*

*(a) An order requiring the county, city, department or agency to cease and desist the unlawful practice;*

*(b) Payment of compensatory or punitive damages, provided that an aggrieved person shall make a reasonable effort to mitigate any damages;*

*(c) Payment of reasonable attorney fees;*

*(d) Payment of court costs; and*

*(e) Payment of a fine not to exceed two thousand dollars for each violation (\$2,000); and*

*(f) Other equitable relief, including, but not limited to, the dismissal or removal from*

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*office of the law enforcement officer.*

*(5) Severability. If any provision of this Chapter or application thereof to any person or circumstance is judged invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Chapter are declared severable.*

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall take effect 60 days after its adoption.

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**Explanation:**

*Italics indicate new matter added.*