

**AN ORDINANCE CREATING A NEW ARTICLE 179 IN THE CITY CODE  
ESTABLISHING A HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, the health and wellness of Morgantown residents is an integral component of maintaining a vibrant and attractive community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Morgantown's economy benefits from a healthy and physically active populace in that city residents are more energetic and productive employees and place fewer demands on the healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, talented individuals and innovative companies often consider the overall health of a community, including access to the outdoors, recreational areas, and green spaces, in their decisions about where to settle; and

WHEREAS, research shows a positive link between community design and increased physical activity in that even those who dislike being active are more active when they live in compact, walkable areas, as are children who live close to parks and to their school; and

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to everyone's health, productivity, and well-being; and

WHEREAS, a critical step towards a healthy and active populace is making walking and cycling safe within our communities by adopting appropriate street standards for transportation infrastructure to be used in new developments and in street reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, our land use decisions impact the location, availability, and accessibility of healthy foods and we can improve our citizens' access to healthy foods by working proactively to position stores, markets, gardens, and farms within our communities; and

WHEREAS, our decisions also impact the ease and safety with which our residents can walk or bicycle to and from school, work, the local grocery store, and to other daily activities and recreation; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that many locally-grown foods place fewer demands on the natural environment and have significant economic benefits to our local economy; and

WHEREAS, as elected officials we shape the communities that shape our lives; and

WHEREAS, City Council has conducted information sessions seeking input on how the City can best promote health and wellness in the community; and

WHEREAS, these information sessions have demonstrated broad community interest in the creation of a Health and Wellness Commission to promote this important community interest;

NOW, THEREFORE, the City of Morgantown hereby ordains that a new Article 179 entitled "Health and Wellness Commission" is established within the City Code as follows:

#### **179.01. ESTABLISHED.**

There is hereby established a Health and Wellness Commission for the City, the official name of which shall be the “Morgantown Health and Wellness Commission.”

#### **179.02. PURPOSE.**

The purpose of the Commission shall be to advise and recommend to the City Manager and City Council such plans, programs, and projects which in the opinion of the Commission would improve the health and well-being of City residents. The Commission may review and make timely recommendations on all health and wellness plans or projects pursued by the City. The Commission shall support, promote, and develop community resources in nutrition, physical activity, and community wellness events. The Chair of the Commission shall lead the Commission and serve in an advisory capacity to the City Manager and City Council. The Commission shall have authority to establish committees to assist in accomplishing the objectives of the Commission and may appoint nonmembers to serve on those committees.

#### **179.03. MEMBERSHIP.**

- (a) The Health and Wellness Commission shall consist of nine members, as follows:
  - (i) Six of the members shall preferably have experience in one or more of the following areas: physical activity, outdoor recreation, food access and security, nutrition, community-health-and-wellness event planning, public health, health promotion, health policy, grant writing, medical care, mental health, treatment of substance abuse, and community safety.
  - (ii) One member shall be a high school or college student or otherwise represent a youth perspective.
  - (iii) One member shall be a member of City Council.
  - (iv) One member shall be a member of the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners.
- (b) All members shall either be residents of, or employed in, the City.
- (c) The Commission members shall be appointed by City Council.
- (d) The City Manager may appoint a member of the City Administration to serve as a nonvoting ex-officio member of the Commission.

#### **179.04. TERM.**

Each member of the Commission, with the exception of the members representing City Council and the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners, shall serve a term of three years each and shall continue in office until replaced by a successor unless the office is vacated by death,

resignation, or removal of the member; provided that, in order to stagger the terms of members and promote continuity in the Commission, the initial membership of the Commission prescribed by this Ordinance shall be appointed as follows:

- 3 members to 3-year terms beginning January 1, 2018
- 2 members to 2-year terms beginning January 1, 2018
- 2 members to 1-year terms beginning January 1, 2018

The members representing City Council and the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners shall serve for a term consistent with the term for which each was elected or appointed to office. If a Commission position becomes vacant prior to the completion of its term, City Council shall appoint a replacement Commission member at its earliest convenience to serve the remainder of the vacated term. To ensure the continued functioning of the Commission, the quorum and majority requirements for Commission meetings shall be reduced proportionally for the duration of any such decrease in Commission members.

#### **179.05. VACANCIES.**

Vacancies shall be filled subject to the conditions set forth in Section 179.03 and for the unexpired term only. The office of a member of the Health and Wellness Commission shall become vacant upon the member's death, resignation, or removal from office. Should a member fail to attend more than one-half of the regular meetings of the Commission in a consecutive twelve-month period, the Chairperson shall be authorized to remove that member from office. All members shall serve without compensation.

#### **179.06. OFFICERS.**

At the regular Commission meeting of July in each year, the Health and Wellness Commission shall select from its own membership a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary. These Commission positions shall be for one year.

#### **179.07. MEETINGS.**

The Health and Wellness Commission shall meet in regular meetings, as often as it may deem necessary by its members, and may conduct special meetings upon call of the Chairperson or a majority of the members. The Commission may adopt its own rules of procedure for the purpose of transacting its business.

#### **179.08. APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS.**

City Council may appropriate any funds that it deems necessary to carry out any of the proposals set forth by the Health and Wellness Commission. The Commission may apply for federal and state financial aid in grants or other forms of financial assistance through the City Administration to assist in carrying out any of such proposals or projects. The Commission may also seek financial assistance from other organizations or individuals for such purposes in

consultation with the City Administration. Any request for funding that obligates expenditure of City funds shall require approval by the person or body authorized to expend such funds. All Commission funding shall be received and managed by the office of the City Manager.

**179.09. SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT.**

City Council may request a semi-annual report from the Health and Wellness Commission regarding its services provided to the City. This report may include information, statistics, financial data, and recommendations which may be deemed of interest to City Council.

This ordinance shall be effective from the date of adoption.


FIRST READING:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ADOPTED:

FILED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

RECORDED: