

The amended Penalties Ordinance may be summarized as follows:

1. The Penalties Ordinance was last revised on September 12, 1995.
2. Since then, the New Jersey Legislature amended the statutory basis for a municipality to impose increased penalties.
3. The Penalties Ordinance increases the range of fines which the Municipal Court Judge may impose from \$1000 to \$2,000, with the same potential ninety (90) day imprisonment period.
4. The Penalties Ordinance establishes, consistent with the state statute, a separate set of penalties for housing or zoning violations, with fines that were formerly \$500, to a maximum of \$1,250.00, provided that the property owner is given an opportunity to cure the violation. If the property owner fails to cure, then the higher fine may be imposed.
5. The Penalties Ordinance establishes that separate housing or zoning violations are incurred for each day a violation occurs without the need for additional summonses.
6. The Penalties Ordinance eliminates classes of offenses (A, B, C), creating only one class and greater flexibility for the Municipal Court Judge.
7. The Penalties Ordinance provides a maximum penalty. The Municipal Court Judge has the discretion to impose a fine up to the maximum, but is not required to do so.