

**IN THE CITY COUNCIL  
FOR THE CITY OF HOOD RIVER, OREGON**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2097**

**An Ordinance Amending the Hood River Municipal Code Title 18 (Signs and  
Related Regulations) Chapter 18.03 (Original Art Murals), Section 18.03.030  
(Allowed Original Art Murals) to limit mural height**

The Hood River City Council finds as follows:

**WHEREAS**, murals in public spaces can provide a number of benefits, including making public spaces areas more visually appealing and attractive, preserving and reflecting cultural heritage, providing a forum for local artists and residents to collaborate, deterring vandalism, and supporting economic development by increasing foot traffic for businesses in the City; and

**WHEREAS**, unregulated murals may result in visual clutter, inappropriate size, scale, height and other adverse impacts incompatible with a particular setting or neighborhood; and

**WHEREAS**, the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitutional limits the regulation of signs, which includes murals, to content neutral standards regulating the time, place and manner of display of the signs involved; and

**WHEREAS**, the City received interest from several community entities and individuals requesting that the City adopt regulations that would allow murals on buildings, that would also distinguish them from billboards and other types of signs regulated under the City's standard sign code in Chapter 18.02 (Sign Regulations); and

**WHEREAS**, through multiple workshops and public hearings on August 15, 2023; August 29, 2023; November 8, 2023; November 27, 2023; February 12, 2024; and March 25, 2024, the community provided input on a variety of content neutral time, place and manner regulations that could be used to regulate the creation, size, physical dimensions and display of murals in certain parts of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has come to understand that most commercial buildings in eligible areas are taller than the originally adopted maximum height limit of 15 feet; and

**WHEREAS**, at its regular meeting on August 10, 2026, the City Council considered the general concept and a proposal to increase the height limit for murals up to the tallest part of the building to which they are affixed, at which time the Council accepted public testimony and comment and voted to adopt the increase in mural height.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Hood River City Council ordains as follows:

**Section 1. Adoption.** Hood River Municipal Code Title 18 (Signs and Related Regulations) Chapter 18.03 (Original Art Murals), Section 18.03.030 (Allowed Original Art Murals) is amended to read as follows:

**18.03.030 Allowed Original Art Murals.** Original Art Murals are allowed on buildings and retaining walls when they meet all of the criteria in this section, when not prohibited by Section 18.03.040, where otherwise consistent with all applicable requirements of this Chapter, and upon satisfaction of the following requirements:

- A. No part of the mural shall exceed ~~15 feet in height measured from the grade plane.~~ **the roof line of the building.**
- B. The mural shall remain in place, without alterations, for a period of at least 2 years. The applicant shall certify in the permit application that the applicant agrees to maintain the mural in place for a period of 2 years without alteration.
- C. The mural shall not extend more than 2 inches from the plane of the building surface upon which it is tiled or painted or to which it is affixed.
- D. The mural shall meet the Design Standards in 18.03.050 subsection C.

**Section 2. Severability:** If any portion, provision, section or subsection of this ordinance is found to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, such finding shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision, section or subsection of the ordinance.

**READ** for the first time on August 10, 2026. Read for the second time and adopted September 14, 2026. This ordinance shall take effect on the 31<sup>st</sup> day following the second reading.

AYES:\_\_\_\_\_

NAYS:\_\_\_\_\_

ABSTAIN:\_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Blackburn, Mayor

ATTEST:

Approved as to Form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Gray, City Recorder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Kearns, City Attorney