

APPENDIX D

Municipal Seals

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Seals are “used especially to certify a signature or authenticate a document” (Merriam-Webster, Entry 3 of 5, 1, b, 1). In short, they are used to “authenticate” and “confirm” something.

Municipal seals are used on ordinances, resolutions, certificates, or other instruments necessary to authenticate official municipal documents and actions or to indicate institutional sanction for official, legal, and ceremonial purposes; city clerks (or designees) are usually the individuals authorized to use municipal seals. Chapter 160A (“Cities and Towns”) of the North Carolina General Statutes specifically states the following uses of municipal seals...

§160A-11: “All documents required or permitted by law to be executed by municipal corporations will be legally valid and binding in this respect when a legible corporate stamp, which is a facsimile of its seal, is used in lieu of an imprinted or embossed corporate or common seal.”

§160A-79 (b) (3): “A copy of an ordinance as set out in the minutes, code, or ordinance book of the council, certified under seal by the city clerk as a true copy (the clerk’s certificate need not be authenticated).”

Therefore, and with regards to municipal certificates necessary to authenticate municipal action for non-statutory speeds inside municipal corporate limits in accordance with §20-141(f), original and unaltered municipal certificates are required to be included in executed ordinance packages.

References

Merriam-Webster Dictionary (authenticate)
<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/authenticate>

Merriam-Webster Dictionary (confirm)
<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/confirm>

Merriam-Webster Dictionary (seal)
<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/seal>

Merriam-Webster Law Dictionary (seal)
<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/seal#legalDictionary>

§ 20-141. Speed restrictions
https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/BySection/Chapter_20/GS_20-141.html

§ 160A-11. Corporate powers

https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/BySection/Chapter_160A/GS_160A-11.html

§ 160A-77. Code of ordinances

https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/BySection/Chapter_160A/GS_160A-77.html

§ 160A-79. Pleading and proving city ordinances

https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/BySection/Chapter_160A/GS_160A-79.html