

By Council Members Powers and Adams

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to press credentials

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

1           Section 1. Section 12-208 of the administrative code of the city of New York, as added  
2 by local law number 18 for the year 2019, is renumbered section 12-209.

3           § 2. Chapter 2 of title 12 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended  
4 by adding a new section 12-210 to read as follows:

5           § 12-210 Press credentials. a. Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following  
6 terms have the following meanings:

7           Commissioner. The term “commissioner” means the commissioner of citywide  
8 administrative services.

9           Department. The term “department” means the department of citywide administrative  
10 services.

11           Press card. The term “press card” means a press credential that is issued to an individual  
12 member of the press and which may be used at multiple events during the period that the press  
13 card is valid.

14           Press credential. The term “press credential” means a document that entitles the bearer,  
15 subject to safety and evidence preservation concerns or space limitations, to cross police lines,  
16 fire lines or other restrictions, limitations or barriers established by the city at emergency, spot,  
17 or breaking news events and public events of a non-emergency nature where police lines, fire  
18 lines or other restrictions, limitations or barriers established by the city have been set up for

1 security or crowd control purposes and to attend events sponsored by the city which are open to  
2 members of the press.

3 Reserve press card. The term “reserve press card” means a press credential that is issued  
4 to a news organization for use by individuals retained by such news organization.

5 Single event press card. The term “single event press card” means a press credential that  
6 is issued to an individual member of the press for use at a single event only.

7 b. The commissioner shall have the sole authority to issue, suspend and revoke press  
8 credentials. The commissioner shall issue press cards, reserve press card and single press cards  
9 and may establish by rule additional types of press credentials.

10 c. The commissioner shall by rule establish procedures and criteria for the issuance,  
11 suspension and revocation of press credentials, including, without limitation:

12 1. Application procedures;

13 2. Criteria for denial of an application for a press credential and procedures for appeal of  
14 such a denial; and

15 3. Criteria and procedures for suspension or revocation of a press credential and  
16 procedures for appeal of such a suspension or revocation.

17 d. The commissioner may not issue a press credential to an individual member of the  
18 press unless a city agency has completed a background check of such individual.

19 § 3. Any press credential issued by the police department and valid on the effective date  
20 of this local law shall remain valid until the later of (i) its expiration date or (ii) 180 days after  
21 the effective date of this local law.

1           § 4. This local law takes effect 180 days after it becomes law, except that the  
2 commissioner of citywide administrative services shall take any necessary actions to implement  
3 this local law, including the promulgation of rules, prior to such effective date.

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