

DRAFT: August 31, 2016
APPROVED: November 14, 2016

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP
KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN
(Ordinance No. 2016-001)

At a regular meeting of the Township Board for Grattan Township held at the Township offices on November 14, 2016, beginning at 7:00 p.m., the following Ordinance was offered for adoption by Township Board Member Paul Knoerl, which motion was seconded by Township Board Member Sabrina Freeman:

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE PARKING AND PLACEMENT OF AUTOMOBILES, VEHICLES AND OTHER ITEMS ADJACENT TO FIRE HYDRANTS AND WITHIN FIRE LANES IN GRATTAN TOWNSHIP; PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF; AND PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THIS ORDINANCE.

THE TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN (the “Township”) ORDAINS:

Article 1. Short Title. This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the “Grattan Township No Parking Fire Lane Ordinance.”

Article 2. Intent and Purpose. The Grattan Township Board and the Grattan Township Fire Department have both determined that this Ordinance, and its enforcement, are essential to the health, safety and welfare of Township residents, property owners and visitors. Various water hydrants are located throughout Grattan Township and may be used by the Grattan Township Fire Department to access water in the event of a fire or other emergency. All of the hydrants currently located within the Township are “dry hydrants” which are not attached to any public or private water system, but rather, are installed in lakes, streams, canals and other watercourses within the Township. The locations of these hydrants (as well as fire lanes) must be kept clear of any vehicles or other property that would interfere with access to such hydrants or areas during any type of fire or other emergency.

Article 3. Definitions. For purposes of this Ordinance, the following words and phrases shall mean:

- (a) “Hydrant” means an upright pipe with a nozzle or spout drawing water from a water main, lake, stream or canal. A hydrant is also sometimes referred to as a “fireplug”. Typically, such hydrants are used as an emergency water supply for fighting fires or for other public emergencies or catastrophes. A hydrant is also a connection point or structure by which firefighters can tap into a water supply.

- (b) “Fire lane” means passageways, access roads or other ways or areas that allow fire apparatus, members of a fire department, fire vehicles or similar vehicles to pass through. Fire lanes are not intended for normal vehicle traffic or the parking of normal non-fire department vehicles. Generally, fire lanes are marked by Township signs or markings.

Article 4. Regulations.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to park or leave an automobile, vehicle or other item in any area designated by the Township Board as a fire lane or for fire or emergency vehicles to access water for firefighting or other emergencies.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to park or leave an automobile, vehicle or other item within 20 feet of a hydrant designated by the Township Board for the use of fighting fire or other emergency vehicles to access water for firefighting or other emergencies.
- (c) It shall be unlawful for any person to damage, deface, tamper with, block, remove or vandalize any hydrant or any Township sign regarding any hydrant, fire lane or area designated by the Township Board for fire or emergency vehicles to access water for firefighting or other emergencies.
- (d) It shall be unlawful for any person to disobey or disregard any oral directive, warning or command by the Township fire chief (or other designated fire department official) to move a vehicle or other item away from a hydrant or fire lane during any fire or other emergency.

Article 5. Signs. The Township is authorized to install signs adjacent to any hydrant or adjacent to or within any fire lane indicating no parking areas or a prohibition on other uses or activities adjacent to a hydrant or within a fire lane. Any person who disobeys any such Township sign or engages in any use or activity prohibited by any such Township sign shall be responsible for municipal civil infraction as specified in Article 8 of this Ordinance.

Article 6. Exemption. Police officers, firefighting personnel and first emergency responders are exempt from the regulations contained in this Ordinance when employed by governmental unit and engaged in firefighting, emergency rescue or similar activities or uses.

Article 7. Towing and other costs. If a person does not remove that person’s automobile, vehicle or other item from a fire lane or within 20 feet of a hydrant immediately when so directed by a Township official, the Township shall have the right to have the automobile, vehicle or item towed or removed to another location and the owner of the automobile, vehicle or other item shall promptly reimburse the Township for any and all costs for such towing, removal and storage. Such cost reimbursements shall be in addition to any other penalties or fines imposed by a court of competent jurisdiction pursuant to Article 8 hereof.

Article 8. Penalties. Any person who violates this Ordinance is responsible for a municipal civil infraction, and shall pay a civil fine of not less than \$100.00 and not more than \$500.00. In

addition, a court may order the person to pay full restitution for any damages to the environment, a road, or any private or public property damaged caused or worsened as a result of the violation.

Article 9. Repealer Clause. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed, but only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Article 10. Severability. In the event that any one or more sections, provisions, phrases, or words of this Ordinance shall be found to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the validity or the enforceability of the remaining sections, provisions, phrases, or other words of this Ordinance.

Article 11. Effective Date. The provisions of this Ordinance shall take effect upon the expiration of thirty (30) days after the date of publication of the Ordinance or a summary of its provisions in accordance with the law.

The vote to approve and adopt this Ordinance was as follows:

YEAS: Kessie Brummel, Sabrina Freeman, Paul Knoerl

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Denny Heffron, Frank Force

ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an ordinance adopted by the Township Board for Grattan Township at the time, date, and place specified above pursuant to the required statutory procedures.

Respectfully submitted,

By Kessie Brummel
Kessie Brummel
Grattan Township Clerk