

STREET ADDRESS NUMBERS AND STREET NAME ORDINANCE

(Ord. No. 2012-002)

An ordinance to establish requirements for identification of dwellings and other buildings by readily visible street address numbers; to require that all streets in the Township be named and identified with street signs; to otherwise provide for the identification of buildings and streets; and to provide penalties for violations of the ordinance.

THE TOWNSHIP OF GRATTAN ORDAINS:

Section 1. Short Title. This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the Grattan Township Street Address Numbers and Street Name Ordinance.

Section 2. Purpose. This Ordinance is enacted to protect the health, safety and general welfare of the residents of the Township by requiring the uniform placement, size and display of street address numbers for all dwellings and other principal buildings within the Township, so that each building or building unit can be readily identified and located by personnel responding to emergencies, so as to reduce or avoid uncertainty as to the address of each building or building unit, and thereby enable emergency responders to reach the location of emergencies more quickly than may otherwise be possible. Further, this Ordinance is enacted to assure that all streets, including private streets (whether or not approved by the Township) are named and appropriately identified by readily visible street signs, to improve prompt access by emergency personnel when necessary.

Section 3. Placement of Street Address Numbers. All dwellings and other buildings shall be marked and identified by the owner with the correct street address number in accordance with this section.

(a) Street address numbers shall be placed at or near the front entrance of the dwelling or other principal building at a location that is readily visible from the adjacent street or right-of-way.

(b) Street address numbers shall be at least four inches high; each part of a number shall be at least 1/2 inch wide. All street address numbers shall be Arabic numerals.

(c) The dwelling owner or building owner shall be responsible for installing and maintaining street address numbers in accordance with this Ordinance.

(d) If the street address numbers on a dwelling or other principal building are not visible from the adjacent street or right-of-way, the street address numbers shall in addition be displayed on a separate post or sign, such numbers being at least four inches high, and at least 1/2 inch wide, on a contrasting background. The street address post or sign shall be located as close as possible to the intersection of the building driveway and the adjacent street or right-of-way, though not closer than five feet from the edge of the right-of-way. The post or sign shall be at least 42 inches above the ground. If the mailbox for the dwelling or other principal building is located directly adjacent to the abutting street or right-of-way, on the same side of the street as the dwelling or other building, then

the property owner may display the street address number on the mailbox, rather than on a separate post or sign, using numerals of the same size and of contrasting color or reflective material.

(e) In the case of multiple buildings or multiple building units on a single parcel of land, street address numbers and unit numbers shall be displayed on each building and each building unit.

(f) A single building on a parcel of land shall display only one street address number.

Section 4. Street Names.

(a) All public and private streets shall be named, including private streets and other private rights-of-way (excluding driveways not established as separate easements).

(b) In the approval of a private street, the Township shall approve a name for the street, subject to the approval of the name by the Kent County Road Commission.

(c) A street name shall not duplicate an existing street name, nor be confusingly similar to an existing street name.

(d) A public or private street or other private right-of-way shall be marked by a street identification sign that complies with Kent County Road Commission requirements for street signs. The placement of such street signs shall be subject to County Road Commission approval.

(e) If two or more dwellings or other principal buildings are served by a private street, shared access easement, private right-of-way or other private means of access, the Township zoning administrator may require that a sign listing the name of the private street or easement, if any, and the addresses of the buildings served by the street or easement be displayed on an additional sign near the intersection of the private street, easement or other right-of-way with the public street. In determining whether such sign is required, the zoning administrator shall consider the visibility from the public street of the street addresses located on or at the buildings served by the private street, private easement or other right-of-way, and the ability of emergency services personnel to identify the dwellings or other principal buildings in the absence of an additional sign or other identification.

Section 5. Currently Unnamed Private Streets, Private Access Easements and Other Private Rights-of-Way.

(a) The owner or owners of dwellings or other principal buildings as to which access is gained by an unnamed private street, private access easement or other private right-of-way shall be obligated, if required by the Township, to obtain Kent County Road Commission approval of a name for such private street, private access easement or other private right-of-way, and to place a street name sign of a type and at a location approved by the County Road Commission.

(b) As an alternative to (a) above, the Township may request the Kent County Road Commission to approve a street name proposed by the Township. In determining a street name to propose for such purpose, the Township may consult the owners of the dwellings or other buildings involved (but if a street is to be named for a person or family, consent of the person or family shall be first obtained). After approval of a street name, the Township shall require the property owners to

arrange for the placement of a street sign approved by the County Road Commission, or the Township may request that the Road Commission install such a sign.

Section 6. Building Permits and Certificates of Occupancy. All applicants for building permits for new construction (or alteration of existing buildings that have no street address numbers) shall be given a copy of the requirements for street address numbers and street names and signs, and shall comply with the requirements of this Ordinance before a building permit is issued, or as a condition of the building permit. The issuance of a certificate of occupancy shall be conditioned upon compliance with the requirements of this Ordinance. Required street address numbers shall be permanently affixed in accordance with this Ordinance at the time of final inspection of a dwelling or other principal building.

Section 7. Buildings Under Construction. Street address numbers shall be displayed so as to be readily visible from the street or other right-of-way that abuts a parcel of land on which a building is being constructed.

Section 8. Existing Buildings; Time for Compliance. This Ordinance is adopted in furtherance of the public health, safety and general welfare, and accordingly it applies to all existing dwellings and all other existing principal buildings, in accordance with its terms. For such existing dwellings and other existing principal buildings, the requirements of this Ordinance shall be fully complied with within six months after the effective date of this Ordinance, or within such further period of time as may be permitted by the Township Board.

Section 9. Sign Provisions in Zoning Ordinance. A number which qualifies as a street address number within the meaning of this Ordinance and which complies with the street address number size and placement requirements stated herein shall not be included for purposes of calculating sign area requirements under the otherwise applicable sign requirements of the Township Zoning Ordinance. If there is a conflict between the provisions of this Ordinance and those of the Township Zoning Ordinance with respect to the location or placement of a street address number or street sign, the provisions of this Ordinance shall control.

Section 10. Municipal Civil Infraction.

(a) A person who violates any provision of this Ordinance is responsible for a municipal civil infraction, subject to payment of a civil fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$250.

(b) The officials authorized to issue a municipal civil infraction citation for a violation of this Ordinance shall be as stated in Section 2 of the Township Civil Infractions Citations Ordinance, being Township Ordinance No. 95-29, as amended. Other matters and procedures with respect to such municipal civil infraction citations shall be as provided in Ordinance No. 95-29, as amended.

Section 11. Nuisance Per Se. A violation of this Ordinance constitutes a nuisance per se.

Section 12. Other Remedies. In addition to any other remedy available by law, the Township may pursue a legal action for injunction or other process to restrain or prevent any violation of the provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 13. Repeal. As of the effective date of this ordinance, Township Ordinance No. 93-12, as amended by Ordinance No. 95-28, is repealed in its entirety.

Section 14. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective 30 days after its publication or 30 days after the publication of a notice of adoption in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township.