

211.000 – MESSAGE CENTER SIGNS Ord. No. 2015-\_\_ Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_, 2015

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF UNION CODE OF ORDINANCES BY ADDING A NEW ORDINANCE TITLED "MESSAGE CENTER SIGNS," TO REGULATE THE OPERATION OF MESSAGE CENTER SIGNS IN ORDER TO MITIGATE DRIVER DISTRACTION AND NUISANCES TO NEIGHBORING PROPERTIES AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS.

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF UNION:

211.001 - Purpose.

Sec. 1. The intent of this ordinance is to regulate the brightness, frequency of message change and other operational characteristics message center signs in order to limit the distraction of motorists and the creation of nuisances for surrounding properties.

211.002 - Definitions.

Sec. 2. For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

(A) Message Center Sign: Any structure utilizing an illuminated message capable of being programmed or changed electronically including time and temperature.

(B) Zoning Ordinance: The Charter Township of Union Zoning Ordinance 1991-5

211.003 – Operational Requirements

Sec. 3 All message center signs in the township shall be operated in compliance with the following requirements

(A) In addition to the general requirements for sign maintenance, all changeable copy signs shall bear a legible message, other suitable display or be left blank. Electronic devices when not in use are to be left blank and unlighted. Any lighted or electronic changeable message sign in which the electrical or lighting components are operating in an erratic, broken or damaged fashion shall be turned off or removed.

(B) The sign shall not include animation including scrolling or flashing messages and the message on the sign may change a maximum of four (4) times per minute. At all other times the sign message and background must remain constant.

(C) Message center signs on property in or adjacent to residential or agricultural zoning districts under the zoning ordinance shall be regulated so that at dusk and into the evening the sign dims in order to maintain the same level of contrast with the ambient lighting that existed during the day. A sign incapable of regulating the brightness contrast in this manner shall remain off between dusk and sunrise.

211.004 – Pre-existing Signs

Sec. 4 All message center signs in operation as of the effective date of this ordinance shall be modified to come into compliance with the requirements of this ordinance with 60 days of the effective date of this ordinance.

211.005 Violation

Sec. 5 A violation of this ordinance shall constitute a municipal civil infraction as established under Ord. No. 1999-02, Part 3 of the Union Charter Township Code of Ordinances

211.006 - Severability.

Sec. 6. If any Section, Subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this chapter is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, that portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this chapter.

211.007 - Publication and effective date.

Sec. 7. The Township Clerk shall cause to be published a notice of adoption of this ordinance within 10 days of the date of its adoption. This ordinance shall take effect 30 days after its adoption.