

ORDINANCE NO. 97-13

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
COUNTY OF WARREN
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A NEW CHAPTER OF THE
TOWNSHIP CODE REGARDING SNOW EMERGENCIES

WHEREAS, the Township of Washington wishes to address the problems of snow on the streets, highways and thoroughfares of the Township and the necessity to allow various Township and/or governmental vehicles to plow said streets/thoroughfares in order to keep such accessible for emergency and other applicable vehicles.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that a new chapter of the Township Code, entitled "Snow Emergencies" is hereby created as follows:

Section 1. Definitions

As used in this chapter:

"Chains" means full chains, strap chains or other types of chains mounted on both rear and/or front wheels of a motorized vehicle.

"Snow" means any precipitation depositing any accumulation on the streets or thoroughfares within the Township of Washington, including snow, sleet, hail, ice or freezing rain.

"Snow emergency" means a state of street conditions that are hazardous and/or dangerous to vehicular and pedestrian traffic and so declared by the Township Police Chief and/or Township Public Works Manager and/or other designated Township official as provided in Section 4 below.

"Snow tires" means tires having treads designed for use in snow, which tires must be in such condition as to serve the purpose for which they are designed.

Section 2. Parking Prohibited

A. Whenever snow has fallen and the accumulation is such that it covers the street or highway or thoroughfares, an emergency shall exist and no vehicle shall be parked on the streets or highways of Washington Township.

B. The above parking prohibition shall remain in effect until after the snow has ceased, until the streets or highways or thoroughfares have been plowed sufficiently and to the extent that parking will not interfere with the normal flow of traffic.

C. There shall be signs posted at the borders of the Township notifying all citizens, residents, pedestrians, drivers and visitors stating that snow emergencies may be declared on any and/or all streets, highways and thoroughfares and governed by the provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 3. Removal of Vehicles as Nuisance and Menace

Any unoccupied vehicle parked and/or standing in violation of this Ordinance shall be deemed a nuisance and a menace to the safe and proper regulations of traffic and any police or other law enforcement/governmental officer may provide for the removal of such vehicle. The owner shall pay the reasonable costs of the removal and storage which may result from such removal before regaining possession of the vehicle.

Section 4. Declaration of Snow Emergency; Public Informed; Termination

A. When, in the opinion of the Township Police Chief, Township Public Works Manager, other designated Township official or other authorized governmental official, whichever is applicable, the actual or expected precipitation of snow will create hazardous or dangerous street and highway conditions for vehicular or pedestrian traffic, he/she may, in the manner set forth herein, declare that a snow emergency exists in the Township or section(s) thereof.

B. Said official(s) shall, as soon as possible, inform the public of the snow emergency by issuing a press release to the local/state, where applicable, radio, television and news services.

C. Said official(s) may declare any snow emergency route or any part of a snow emergency route to be free from the restrictions herein imposed, or the snow emergency terminated, when in his/her opinion the weather or street conditions warrant such a determination. The official(s) shall give notice of this manner, if possible, provided for in paragraph B of this Section.

Section 5. Permitting Unequipped Vehicles to Stall on Snow Emergency Routes

No later than one (1) hour after a snow emergency has been declared and during its existence, no person shall cause, permit, allow or suffer any vehicle owned by or driven by his/her to become stalled or immobile on any portion of any of the streets, highways and/or thoroughfares within the Township because of failure of said vehicle to be equipped with snow tires or chains as defined herein.

Section 6. Penalties

Unless another penalty is expressly provided by New Jersey Statute, every person convicted of a violation of a provision of this Ordinance or any supplement thereto shall be liable to a penalty of not more than one hundred (\$100) dollars or imprisonment for a term not to exceed twenty (20) days or both exclusive of removal/storage costs per this Ordinance.

IN FAVOR


OPPOSE

ABSENT/ABSTAIN

Beaumont
Hollingsworth
Horensky
Palazzi
Kovacs

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced and passed on first ready at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of Washington Township held on September 16, , 1997 and ordered published in accordance with law. Said Ordinance will be considered for final reading and adoption at a meeting of the Township Committee to be held on October 21, , 1997 at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard at the Police Department Building, Little Philadelphia Road, Washington, New Jersey, at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.



Mary Ann O'Neil, Township Clerk
Township of Washington

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