

**TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE
ORDINANCE # 11-2024**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, CHAPTER IV OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, ENTITLED GENERAL LICENSING BY AMENDING PORTIONS OF SECTION 4-4 SOLICITORS AND CANVASSERS.

WHEREAS, the Township of Wantage desires to amend and supplement the provisions of Chapter IV General Licensing of the Wantage Revised General Ordinances, §4-4 Solicitors and Canvassers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey as follows:

Section 1.

Chapter IV, General Licensing, §4-4.1 shall be amended to delete the current section and insert the following in its place:

Section 4-4.1. Permit required. It shall be unlawful for any solicitor or canvasser as defined in §4-4.2 of this Chapter, to engage in such business within the corporate limits of the Township without first obtaining a permit therefore in compliance with provisions of this Chapter.

Chapter IV, General Licensing, §4-4.3 shall be amended to delete the current section and insert the following in its place:

Section 4-4.3. This section is not intended to apply and shall not be construed to apply to (a) sales of merchandise or solicitations of orders for merchandise by members, agents or employees of bona fide religious, charitable or non-profit corporation or associations, where the entire net proceeds of such sales inures to the benefit of such charitable, religious or non-profit associations or corporation, and no part of the sale price inures to the benefit of solicitor or canvasser, and shall not in any manner restrict or abridge the rights and privileges of persons holding state licenses issued to veterans and firemen who may come within the effect of N.J.S.A. 45:24-9, et seq., or (b) to any person engaged in the delivery of goods, wares or merchandise or other articles or things in their regular course of business, to the premises of persons ordering or entitled to same, or (c) to any person engaged in activities for or in behalf of a charitable, religious, civic or political organization.

Chapter IV, General Licensing, §4-4.10 shall be amended to delete the current section and insert the following in its place:

Section 4-4.10. It shall be the duty of any Police Officer, to include County Sheriff or State Trooper or the Township Zoning Officer, to require any person seen soliciting or canvassing, and not known to such officer to be duly licensed, to produce a solicitor's or canvasser's permit, and to enforce the provisions of this Section against any person found to be violating same.

Chapter IV shall be amended to add as Section 4-4.14:

Section 4-4.14. Hours for Canvassing or Soliciting; Display Permit. No canvassing or soliciting shall be done except during the period specified in the permit and between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. Monday to Friday. The permittee shall carry the permit with him at all times while canvassing or soliciting and shall have the permit prominently displayed on his/her lapel or displayed on a neck chain.

Chapter IV shall be amended to add as Section 4-4.15:

Section 4-4.15. Conduct of permittee; establishment of a no-knock registry:

- (a) The permittee shall be courteous to all persons while canvassing or soliciting. The permittee shall not importune or otherwise annoy any person and shall conduct himself in a lawful manner.
- (b) When the permittee shall cease operations under the permit in any event or on the expiration of the permit, the permittee shall surrender the permit to the Township Clerk.
- (c) Establishment of No-Knock Registry
 - (1) For the purpose of protecting residents from criminal activities and safeguarding their privacy, there is hereby established a No-Knock Registry of properties where canvassing and soliciting are prohibited. The No-Knock Registry shall be available to owners or occupants of premises.
 - (2) The No-Knock Registry shall be maintained by the Township Clerk. The Township Clerk shall prepare an application to be used by residents with addresses of those premises whose owners or occupants have notified the Township that canvassing or soliciting are not permitted on their premises.
 - (3) The Township shall post a No-Knock Registry application on the Township website and distribute to other media outlets as designated by the Township. The Township shall provide copies of the applications to the public and undertake reasonable efforts in education and distribution, in order to promote public awareness of the No-Knock Registry.

- (4) The applicant form shall be available online and at the Office of the Township Clerk during normal business hours. The premises shall remain on the registry unless the owners or occupants submit another application requesting that the property be removed from the Registry. The inclusion of a premises on the Registry shall be deemed revocation of any privilege or license to enter or attempt to enter the premises.
- (5) The No-Knock Registry shall be made available to licensed canvassers or solicitors at the time of the issuance of a permit.
- (6) The most current list of registrants on the No-Knock Registry shall be available from the Township Clerk. It is the responsibility of the canvassers or person soliciting to have the most up-to-date list prior to engaging in any canvassing or soliciting.
- (7) There shall be no fee or cost imposed on the owner or occupant for submitting the application to include their premises on the No-Knock Registry.

Chapter IV shall be amended to add as Section 4-4.16:

Section 4-4.16. Penalties:

Any person who violates any provision of this Article shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine not exceeding \$500 or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding 90 days, or both. A separate offense shall be deemed committed on each day during or on which a violation occurs or continues.

Section 2.

All other parts, portions and provisions of Chapter IV of the Township of Wantage Code, be and the same, are hereby ratified and confirmed, except where inconsistent with the terms thereof. In the event of any such inconsistency, the terms of this Ordinance shall be deemed to govern.

Section 3.

If any section, paragraph, sub-section, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof.

Section 4.

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 5. Effective Date. The Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication according to the law.

William Gaechter, Mayor
Township of Wantage

ATTEST:

Melissa Morales, Acting Municipal Clerk
Township of Wantage

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