

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP
BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

ORDINANCE NO. 304

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RICHLAND, COUNTY OF BUCKS, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA AMENDING AND REVISING CHAPTER 15 (MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC) OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RICHLAND, BUCKS COUNTY, SPECIFICALLY SECTION 201 (MAXIMUM SPEED LIMITS ESTABLISHED ON CERTAIN STREETS) TO ESTABLISH A 25 MPH SPEED LIMIT ON CERTAIN ROADWAYS WITHIN THE TWIN LAKES RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION, SECTION 213 (STOP INTERSECTIONS ESTABLISHED) TO ESTABLISH STOP INTERSECTIONS ON CERTAIN ROADWAYS WITHIN THE TWIN LAKES RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION; SECTION 301 (VEHICLE WEIGHT LIMITS ESTABLISHED ON CERTAIN STREETS AND BRIDGES) TO REVISE AND ESTABLISH A 5 TON MAXIMUM GROSS WEIGHT LIMIT FOR CERTAIN PORTIONS OF RESERVOIR ROAD, CALIFORNIA ROAD, AND PORTZER ROAD; SECTION 402 (PARKING PROHIBITED AT ALL TIME IN CERTAIN LOCATIONS) TO PROHIBIT PARKING ON CERTAIN PORTIONS OF ROADWAYS WITHIN THE TWIN LAKES RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION; AND SECTION 511 (AUTHORIZATION FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT) TO ESTABLISH AND CONFIRM CERTAIN AUTHORIZATIONS REGARDING THE IMPOUNDMENT AND TOWING OF VEHICLES; AND MAINTAINING THE EXISTING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THOSE SECTIONS ENUMERATED IN CHAPTER 15.

WHEREAS, the Township of Richland adopted and enacted the Code of Ordinances of the Township of Richland (hereinafter referred to as the “Code”) on June 27, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Richland Township Board of Supervisors desires to amend the Code of Ordinances of the Township of Richland to revise and replace certain provisions of Chapter 15 relating to speed limits on certain streets, stop intersections, parking regulations, weight limits on streets and bridges, and the towing of vehicles within the Township of Richland; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, 75 Pa.C.S.A. §§4902(a) & (b) provide that local authorities may prohibit the operation of vehicles, establish stop intersections, establish parking regulations, establish weight restrictions, and may impose restrictions as to the speed of vehicles operating upon Township roads; and

WHEREAS, Gilmore & Associates, Inc. conducted and completed a Weight Restriction Study (the “Study”) for certain portions of Reservoir Road, California Road, and Portzer Road all within Richland Township, also being identified as “File No. 999-101908”, and dated October 10, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the conclusions stated in the aforementioned Study provide for the imposition of weight restrictions on the studied roadways; and

WHEREAS, the Township has determined that there exist certain physical conditions of roadways that require the imposition of weight restrictions on those portions of Reservoir Road, California Road, and Portzer Road as identified in the above referenced Study; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Richland desires to amend Section 15-201 to establish a 25 MPH speed limit on roadways within the Twin Lakes residential subdivision, Section 15-213 to establish certain stop intersections within the Twin Lakes residential subdivision; Section 15-301 to establish a maximum gross weight limit of Five (5) Tons for the following portions of roadways: (1) Reservoir Road between North West End Boulevard (SR 0309) and California Road; (2) California Road between East Pumping Station Road and Richlandtown Pike (SR 4047); and (3) Portzer Road between West Pumping Station Road and John Fries Highway (SR 0663); Section 15-402 to establish no parking zones on certain roadways within the Twin Lakes residential subdivision, and Section 15-511 to authorize the Police Department to impound and tow certain vehicles when necessary; in accordance with the previously identified Study recommendations and the police powers of Richland Township; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Richland Township has determined that the described amendments and revisions to Chapter 15 will be in the best interests of the Township and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Township has complied with all applicable pre-requisites and/or requirements, including the applicable engineering and traffic studies, under the law with regard to the establishment of speed limits, weight restrictions and the installation of traffic devices; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, 75 Pa.C.S.A. §4902(g) provides for penalties for any person operating a vehicle in violation of the restrictions imposed.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Richland, County of Bucks, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as follows:

SECTION 1. WHEREAS CLAUSES

The foregoing Whereas clauses are incorporated herein as if the same were fully set forth again at length.

SECTION 2. ENACTMENT

This Ordinance is enacted pursuant to the authority conferred by the “Vehicle Code”, Act of 1976, June 17, 1962, No. 81, Section 1, effective July 1, 1977 (75 Pa. C.S.A. § 101 et seq.), as amended and is intended to include and be subject to all provisions of Section 4902 of the “Vehicle Code”, 75 Pa. C.S.A. §4902 and all Pennsylvania Department of Transportation regulations promulgated under the “Vehicle Code”, by way of illustration and not limitation, under Sections 4902 and 6103 (75 Pa. C.S.A. §4902 and 6103).

This Ordinance is further enacted pursuant to a Traffic Study prepared by Gilmore & Associates, Inc. conducted and completed for portions of Reservoir Road(T-448), California Road (T-512), Portzer Road (T-354), being further identified as Gilmore “File No. 999-101908”, and dated October 10, 2024; regarding the weight limits for those portions of roadways identified in Section 15-301.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 15, PART 2, SECTION 201

The Board of Supervisors has determined, and hereby determines, that Chapter 15, Part 2, Section 201 shall be, and is hereby amended to establish a Maximum Speed Limit of 25 MPH on the following roadways:

<u>Street</u>	<u>Between</u>	<u>Maximum Speed Limit</u>
Blue Gill Drive	Twin Lakes Dr. and Morgan Creek Dr.	25 MPH
Morgan Creek Drive	Old Bethlehem Pk. and Sunfish Cir.	25 MPH
Perch Way	Twin Lakes Dr. and Blue Gill Dr.	25 MPH
Sunfish Circle	Twin Lakes Dr. and Cul-de-sac	25 MPH
Twin Lakes Drive	Old Bethlehem Pk. and Morgan Creek Dr.	25 MPH

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 15, PART 2, SECTION 213

The Board of Supervisors has determined, and hereby determines, that Chapter 15, Part 2, Section 213 shall be, and is hereby amended to designate and establish Stop Intersections at the following locations:

<u>Stop Street</u>	<u>Intersecting or Through Street</u>	<u>Direction of Travel</u>
Blue Gill Drive	Morgan Creek Drive	South
Blue Gill Drive	Twin Lakes Drive	North
Morgan Creek Drive	Sunfish Circle	East
Perch Way	Twin Lakes Drive	North
Perch Way	Blue Gill Drive	East
Sunfish Circle	Twin Lakes Drive	West
Twin Lakes Drive	Morgan Creek Drive	South
Twin Lakes Drive	Old Bethlehem Pike	West

SECTION 5. AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 15, PART 3, SECTION 301

The Board of Supervisors has determined and hereby determines, based on the inspection and study prepared by Gilmore & Associates, Inc., as referenced in Section 2 herein, that Chapter 15, Part 3, Section 301 shall be, and is hereby amended to revise and establish maximum weight limits as follows:

<u>Street or Bridge</u>	<u>Between</u>	<u>Maximum Gross Weight</u>
Reservoir Road	PA 309 and California Road	5 Tons
California Road	East Pumping Station Road and Richlandtown Pike	5 Tons
Portzer Road	West Pumping Station Road and John Fries Highway	5 Tons

SECTION 6. AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 15, PART 4, SECTION 402

The Board of Supervisors has determined, and hereby determines, that Chapter 15, Part 4, Section 402 shall be, and is hereby amended to prohibit parking in the following locations:

<u>Street</u>	<u>Side</u>	<u>Between</u>
Blue Gill Drive	West	Twin Lakes Dr. and Morgan Creek Dr.
Morgan Creek Drive	North and South	O. Bethlehem Pk. and Sunfish Cir.

<u>Street</u>	<u>Side</u>	<u>Between</u>
Perch Way	West	Twin Lakes Dr. and Blue Gill Dr.
Sunfish Circle	West	Twin Lakes Dr. and Cul-de-sac
Twin Lakes Drive	South/West	O. Bethlehem Pk. and Morgan Creek Dr.

SECTION 7. AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 15, PART 5, SECTION 511

The Board of Supervisors has determined, and hereby determines, that Chapter 15, Part 5 shall be, and is hereby amended by adding Subsection 15-511 as follows:

“15-511. Impoundment and Towing of Vehicles

Richland Township police officers are hereby authorized to enforce Pennsylvania Vehicle Code Section 6309 (Impoundment for nonpayment of fines vehicles or combinations with a gross vehicle weight rating of 17,001 pounds or more, 75 Pa.C.S.A. § 6309); Section 6309.1 (Impoundment for nonpayment of fines; vehicles or combinations with a gross vehicle weight rating of 17,000 pounds or less, 75 Pa.C.S.A. § 6309.1); and Section 6309.2 (Immobilization, towing and storage of vehicle for driving without operating privileges or registration, 75 Pa.C.S.A § 630.2), as written.”

SECTION 8. ERECTION OF SIGNS

The Township shall erect or cause to be erected and maintained weight restriction signs designating the restrictions at proper locations along the identified roadways as provided in the Gilmore Study, and this Ordinance. In the case of a restriction on a road which has not begun or ended at an intersection with an unrestricted highway, the Township shall also place an advance informational sign at the intersection nearest each end of the restricted portion of the road which would allow drivers to avoid the restricted portion of road.

SECTION 9. SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If any sentence, clause, or section of this Ordinance is for any reason found to be unconstitutional, illegal, or invalid, such unconstitutionality, illegality, or invalidity shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, or sections of this Ordinance. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Board of Supervisors of Richland Township that this Ordinance would have been adopted had such unconstitutional, illegal, or invalid sentence, clause or section not been included herein.

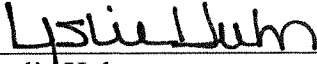
SECTION 10. REPEALER

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed insofar as they may be inconsistent herewith.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE

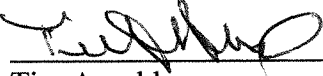
This Ordinance shall become effective five (5) days after enactment.

Attest




Leslie Huhn
Township Manager


RICHLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Tim Arnold
Chairperson



Christopher Vanelli
Vice-Chair



Kathleen M. Doyle
Member