

## ORDINANCE NO. 97-6

**RELATING TO RURAL ADDRESSING, PUBLIC SAFETY, EMERGENCY SERVICE,  
ROAD NAMES, STREET SIGNS, ROAD MAPS AND PENALTIES.****BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSION OF TORRANCE COUNTY:****SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE**

This Ordinance may be cited as the "Torrance County 911 Numbering/Rural Addressing Ordinance. "

**SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE INTENT**

The purpose of this Ordinance is to provide a physical address, consisting of a number and road name, in predominately rural areas so that all commercial and residential structures, and platted vacant lots can be quickly found and identified by law enforcement and emergency service personnel and utility providers.

**SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Building" includes all residential and commercial structures, and platted vacant lots.
- B. "Commission" means the Board of County Commissioners.
- C. "County" means Torrance County, New Mexico.
- D. "County Rural Addresser" means the person employed, appointed or contracted by the county who has the duty of assigning rural address numbers, directly responsible to Emergency Services.
- E. "Emergency Services" means fire, police, ambulance services, E-911 etc.
- F. "Mile Marker" means a system of mileage indicators displayed alongside county, state and federal highways which start at a zero (0) point of origin and are set at intervals of one mile.
- G. "Person" means an individual, partnership, corporation, public utility association, subdivider or land developer.
- H. "Physical Address" means the address number assigned by the Addresser, or designee, after measurements have been made on a named road.

- I. "Public Utility" includes, but is not limited to, electric, water, sewer, natural gas, telephone and cable television companies.
- J. "Unincorporated" means those areas in the County which are located outside any municipal limits or not held in trust or ownership by the Federal Government or State of New Mexico.

#### SECTION 4. ADDRESSING

- A. The mile marker system or rural addressing shall be used in all unincorporated areas of the County, unless that area is within an approved subdivision. Approved subdivisions are still required to be addressed, as determined by the Rural Addresser.
- B. All buildings in the unincorporated areas of the County shall be numbered according to their distance from the beginning of the road upon which the building is located, fronts or from which access to the building is provided, unless an alternate system is used. Once the address has been assigned it shall be placed in a conspicuous place forty-two inches from grade. The numbers shall be placed in a manner which is highly visible from the primary access to the property, and made of a material which is highly reflective so as to be seen clearly at night.
- C. Route Identification. The route identifier hierarchy is:
  - 1. Interstate Routes
  - 2. U.S. Routes
  - 3. State Routes
  - 4. County Roads
- D. Starting Point. The rural addressing starting point for state highways shall be according to the existing markers. All roads which provide access to more than three buildings shall begin at the point where they branch from another road. If any road loops and has both ends accessed from the same road, the starting point shall be at the lower numbered end of the access road.
- E. All public and private roads and easements which provide access to four or more lots shall be named either in accordance with the name assigned to that area, or as approved by the County. Road names shall be 17 characters or less, including spaces.
- F. The County may change road names to eliminate duplication, avoid safety concerns, or protect the health and general welfare of county citizens. Approval of name change shall require final approval of Rural Addresser and Rural Address committee..
- G. 1. Road signs shall conform to minimum standards in G, 4, and below regarding visibility size, lettering and height. Those standards shall ensure that road names

and addresses are visible night or day by emergency services personnel.

2. Road names may be changed by submitting in writing, to either the County Rural Addresser or Planner, the reason or reasons for the name change and including, all property owners who use the road as primary access to their property. Signatures and addresses of each person using the roads as access must be included in the request whether they approve of the change or not. Approval of the street name changes will require a majority vote of a Committee appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. In order for a name change request to proceed, 100 % of all property owners using the road must agree to the new name.

A Committee shall be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners composed of members of the EMS, Rural Addresser, 911 Officer and the 911 Director. This Committee shall meet once a month and hear and act on all road name change requests, assignment of addresses and road names for subdivisions comprising four (4) or more lots. If the road name change is approved, it is the responsibility of the applicant to provide the new sign, installation and maintenance. The applicant shall also inform all property owners of the new name for the road once it has been approved. If the applicant is aggrieved by the decision of the Committee they may appeal the decision to the Board of County Commissioners.

3. Road signs shall be installed and maintained by the County except.
  - a. Land developer or subdivider shall submit a proposed list of road names to the County for approval. Developer, subdivider or representative must personally meet with the rural addresser. Upon approval, developers or subdividers at their expense, shall initially place road signs within the development or subdivision, at the beginning of each road, and at each cross road. Additionally there will be a \$50.00 fee for each road and cross road for sign maintenance and a \$5.00 fee for each lot. This fee must be paid prior to recording of the plat.
  - b. Residents requesting road name changes shall be responsible for the costs of replacing road signs according to a fee schedule and procedure established by the Commission.
4. The following are the minimum uniform standards for all road signs:
  - a. Ultimately four-way signs shall be placed at all intersections.
  - b. Background for signs shall be of slightly reflective, blue aluminum sheeting 0.080 inches thick.

- c. Letters shall be highly reflective yellow and four inches in height (letters should be at least eight times more reflective than the blue background).
  - d. The signs shall be placed at least seven feet from ground level when mounted.
- H. All buildings in the unincorporated areas of the County shall be numbered. Numbers shall be assigned to all buildings by the County.
- I. Owners or occupants of all buildings in the unincorporated areas of the County shall be numbered. Numbers shall be assigned in accordance with section 4, B of this ordinance.
- J. Numbers placed shall conform with the approved color and size specifications.
- K. Numbers shall be permanently placed and maintained in a location clearly visible from the road upon which the building is located.
- L. The County shall keep an official map showing the number of each building in the unincorporated areas of the County.

#### **SECTION 5. ADMINISTRATION OF ORDINANCE**

- A. The County Commission shall have the authority to employ, appoint or contract with a competent person or agency for rural Addresser. The Commission shall have the authority to hire, appoint, or contract with additional rural addressers as necessary.
- B. The Rural Addresser shall be responsible for the administration of this Ordinance.

#### **SECTION 6. PROHIBITIONS**

- A. No land development permit shall be issued until rural addresses have been approved.
- B. Only persons authorized by the County may install road name signs.
- C. No person not authorized by the County shall remove, alter, change or otherwise deface a road name sign or physical address.
- D. No person shall install or cause to be installed any utility service, including, but not limited, to electric, gas, water, sewer, telephone or cable television or any building required by this ordinance to be assigned an address without first receiving a development permit and address.
- E. Profane road names are prohibited.

#### **SECTION 7. PENALTIES**

Any person who violates any section of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and may be punished by a fine not exceed Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) or by imprisonment in the County Jail for a term not to exceed Ninety (90) days, or both such fine and imprisonment.

**SECTION 8. SAVINGS CLAUSE**

In the event any part of this Ordinance is held to be unconstitutional, the other parts shall remain unaffected and in force.

**SECTION 9. REPEALING CLAUSE**

All other conflicting Torrance County Ordinances relating to rural addressing are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 10. VARIANCE**

The Board of County Commissioners may approve a variance to the requirements of this Ordinance provided that granting of the variance will cause no significant hazard, annoyance or inconvenience to the owners of nearby property or Sheriffs Department, EMS and Fire.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 10<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 1997.**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
TORRANCE COUNTY, NEW MEXICO**

*Bill Williams*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**BILL WILLIAMS**

*Rodger Rayner*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**RODGER RAYNER**

*Chester Riley, Jr.*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHESTER RILEY, JR.**



*[Signature]*  
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**COUNTY CLERK**

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
COUNTY OF TORRANCE**

I hereby certify that this instrument was filed for record on the 10th day of December A.D. 1997 at 2:27 o'clock P. M. and duly recorded in book 278 at page 1503-1507

*[Signature]*  
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Deputy