

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 91 1 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