

RURAL ADDRESSING ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-03 05

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 shall 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 can be quickly found and identified by law enforcement, emergency service personnel and utility providers.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Building" includes all residential and commercial structures.
- 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.

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SECTION 4. ADDRESSING

- A. The mile marker system or rural addressing shall be used in all unincorporated areas of the County.
- 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, mitigate safety concerns, or protect the health and general welfare of County citizens. Approval of name change shall require final approval of the Torrance County Commission.
- G. 1. Road signs shall conform to the minimum standards below regarding visibility size, lettering, and height. These standards shall ensure that road name and addresses are visible night or day by emergency services personnel.
2. 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 crossroad.

3. The following are the minimum uniform standards for all road signs:

- A. Background for signs shall be of slightly reflective, green aluminum sheeting of .125 inches.
- B. Letters shall be highly reflective white and four inches in height.
- C. 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. Numbers shall be permanently placed and maintained in a location clearly visible from the road upon which the building is located.
- J. The County shall maintain 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. Addresses will be issued only upon receipt of a development permit processed by Planning & Zoning.
- B. Addresses will not be issued for vacant lots or utility poles.
- C. Only persons authorized by the County may install road name signs.
- D. No person not authorized by the County shall remove, alter, change, or otherwise deface a road name sign or physical address.
- E. No person shall install or cause to be installed any building required by this ordinance to be assigned an address without first receiving a development permit.
- F. Profane road names are prohibited.

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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 Sheriff's Department, EMS and Fire.

This ordinance supersedes all previous enactments of the Rural Addressing Ordinance.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS 13th DAY OF November, 2024

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

Approved as to Form only



Ryan Schwebach, Chairman

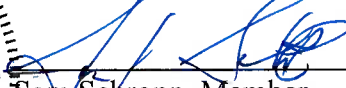


County Attorney

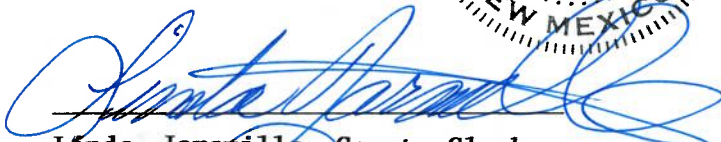


Kevin McCall, Vice Chairman

Attestation:



Sam Schropp, Member



Linda Jaramillo, County Clerk



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