

CITY COUNCIL**The City of Orange Township, New Jersey**

DATE _____

NUMBER 63-2022

TITLE: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 211, ENTITLED SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY SECTION 211-5 OF THE CITY OF ORANGE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CODE. (Submitted by Councilmember-At-Large Adrienne Wooten)

WHEREAS, due to the use of technology in society today it has become advantageous to use technology for things that were previously completed manually; and

WHEREAS, the special needs registry was created to help police officers and other emergency service personnel to better assist residents with special needs in the event of an emergency by providing those first responders with vital information regarding a registrant's disability, emergency contact information, a physical description and current photograph of the registrant; and

WHEREAS, many people may need extra help during a time of emergency, including people who:

- Use life support systems such as oxygen, respirator, ventilator, dialysis, pacemaker, or who have chronic conditions and require treatment (e.g., diabetics requiring insulin);
- Have mobility needs and use a wheelchair, scooter, walker, cane, or other mobility device;
- Are visually impaired, blind, hard of hearing, or Deaf;
- Have speech, cognitive, developmental or behavioral health disabilities; or
- Use assistive animals or a prosthesis.
- Suffer with mental health diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, this special needs registry allows City of Orange Township residents with disabilities or access and functional needs and their families, friends, caregivers and associates an opportunity to provide information to emergency response agencies so emergency responders can better plan to serve them in a disaster or other emergency; and

WHEREAS, according to the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management, the information collected here is confidential and will not be available to the public. The information will be held securely and only used for emergency response and planning; and

WHEREAS, the City has to ability to notify people with special needs to be notified by local officials when an evacuation has been ordered; and

WHEREAS, the use of this registry may save your life; and

WHEREAS, while enrolling in the special needs registry does not guarantee assistance, this notification allows first responders additional time to consider how to best respond to that incident; and

WHEREAS, please note that strict confidentiality is maintained at all times and only those who have a reason to access the information are authorized to do so.

WHEREAS, after conducting many community meetings, receiving emails and telephone calls regarding this registry it is wanted and needed in the City of Orange Township.

WHEREAS, a website is a living, breathing entity on the internet. Every update made to a website once it is “live” on the internet plays a part in its interaction with constituents.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that a notice of this ordinance will be placed on all Municipal websites and updated according to State Statute and Municipal Code.

§ 211-1 Title.

This chapter shall be known as the "Special Needs Registry."

§ 211-2 Purpose and applicability.

It is the purpose and intent of this chapter to create and maintain a list of municipal residents in need of special assistance in case of an emergency for public safety purposes in accordance with P.L. 2017, c. 266 (N.J.S.A. 40:48-2.67).

§ 211-3 Maintenance of list.

The City Clerk shall maintain a list containing the names and addresses of Township residents who identify themselves as being in need of special assistance in the event of emergency and who request that this information be maintained on their behalf for public safety purposes. The list maintained by the City Clerk shall be cross-indexed by name and address of each resident requesting to be on the list and shall identify the special circumstances of each individual.

§ 211-4 Provision of list to emergency services providers.

The City Clerk shall provide the list, solely and strictly for the purposes of P.L. 2017, c. 266 (N.J.S.A. 40:48-2.67), to the Township Police Department, to each fire department or fire district servicing the municipality, and to each first aid or rescue squad servicing the municipality and shall ensure that they are provided with updates at least monthly.

§ 211-5 Notice to residents.

A notice shall be sent to Township residents annually with the tax bills mailed to local property taxpayers advising residents that a special needs list is being maintained by the Clerk for public safety purposes. A notice shall also be published on all Municipal websites and updated according to State Statute and Municipal Code. The notice shall include information as to how a municipal resident may add his or her name and address to the municipal list.

§ 211-6 Landlord notice to tenants.

Within 30 days following notification by the City Clerk pursuant to P.L. 2017, c. 266 (N.J.S.A. 40:48-2.67), and thereafter at the time of creation of a tenancy, a landlord shall advise each tenant that the City Clerk maintains a list containing the names and addresses of Township residents who identify themselves as being in need of special assistance in the event of an emergency, and who request that this information be maintained on their behalf, for public safety purposes.

§ 211-7 Notification of landlords by City.

The City Clerk shall notify each landlord who has filed a certificate of registration with the Township pursuant to Section 2 of P.L. 1974, c. 50 (N.J.S.A. 46:8-28), of the existence of the list and shall provide the landlord with a copy of a notice to be provided to the landlord's tenants, including information as to how a tenant may be added to the list.

§ 211-8 List not confidential.

The list of persons, maintained by the City Clerk, identifying themselves as being in need of special assistance in the event of an emergency for public safety purposes pursuant to P.L. 2017, c. 266 (N.J.S.A. 40:48-2.67) shall not be a government record and shall be deemed confidential for the purposes of P.L. 1963, c. 73 (N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq.).

Adopted:

Joyce L. Lanier
City Clerk

Tency A. Eason
Council President

Approved:

Dwayne D. Warrant, Esq
Mayor

Dated: _____
