

ORDINANCE NO. 2019-02

AN ORDINANCE OF WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, LEHIGH COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE 2009 ZONING ORDINANCE, AMENDING THE ORDINANCE TO INCORPORATE PROVISIONS WITH REGARD TO “TARGET RANGES: AND REGULATIONS THEREWITH; AND ALSO AMENDING THE ORDINANCE DEALING WITH REGULATIONS FOR GROUP HOMES, SMALL AND LARGE; SETTING FORTH VARIOUS REGULATIONS WITH REGARD TO THESE VARIOUS MATTERS; AND REPEALING ANY AND ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT THEREWITH.

SECTION 1. TITLE

This Ordinance is amending the Washington Township Zoning Ordinance of 2009 dealing with provisions for target ranges within the Township and also amending the Ordinance with regard to regulations for group homes, setting forth differing definitions for large and small group homes and also provisions and regulations for the safe operation of target ranges.

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF PURPOSES

It is hereby declared the Policy of Washington Township, Lehigh County, as to matters of public health, safety and welfare to set forth regulations dealing with Target Ranges within the Township and different types and sizes of Group Homes to set forth where and under what conditions these uses will be allowed within the Township so as to protect the public health, safety and welfare and to comply with Federal law.

SECTION 3.

A. PRIVATE TARGET RANGE

The Zoning Ordinance shall be amended, as follows with regard to private target ranges, their locations within the Township and under what conditions they are allowed:

“Section 429 Private Target Range.

Private Target Range is an allowed use in all Zoning Districts except within the Village Center District. All private target ranges shall meet the following regulations:

429.1 All target ranges, firearms, or archery, shall have a barrier behind the target area which is of sufficient height and thickness to adequately protect the

public safety. This barrier shall be made of earth for an outdoor firearms, or archery range, and shall prevent any projectile from leaving said range to any other property.

429.2 An outdoor firearms target range and any firing situations shall be located a minimum of 75 yards from any “residential or commercial lot line”, unless all firing shall occur within a completely enclosed sound-resistant building. Clay pigeon shooting shall be directed away from homes and streets. At no time shall a residential dwelling, commercial building, or public street be in “line of site or point of aim” of any said target.

429.3 An outdoor archery target range and any firing station shall be located a minimum of 25 yards from any “residential or commercial Lot line”, unless shooting would occur within a completely enclosed building. At no time shall a residential dwelling, commercial building, or public street be in “line of site or point of aim” of any said target.

429.4 An outdoor firearms, or archery target range shall be properly posted.

429.5 Outdoor and indoor firearm ranges shall meet township noise requirements.”

429.6 All outdoor firearms target range shall comply with National Rifle Association standards and other applicable Federal, State and local regulations.

429.7 No Private Target Range shall be operated as a Commercial establishment or business. People using the range shall be family members or close friends of the owner of the property. No commercial transaction shall occur to allow the use of the facility.

The following will be added to Definitions in Article 9, Section 910, Subsection 1062.A “Private Target Range” a specialized facility designed for firearms qualifications, training or practice. It may also include the use of “bow and arrows.” This shall not be a commercial use. See Section 429.7.

SECTION 4. GROUP HOMES

Section 535 “Group Homes” shall be amended to add the following immediately after Group Home “Small or Large”. The remainder of this section will remain unchanged.

The following definitions of Group Home - Small and Group Home - Large, shall be added as Section 979 and 979.1 respectively and the current Section 979 is hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. DEFINITIONS

Section 979 shall be deleted and in its place the following added:

“Section 979 Group Home – Small. A facility which provides residents services to not more than four (4) individuals of whom one or more are unrelated. These individuals are handicapped, aged or disabled and may be but are not required to be undergoing rehabilitation, and provided services to meet their needs. This includes uses supervised by any Federal, State or County health/welfare agency, such as group homes (all ages), halfway houses, resident schools and residential facilities.

Section 979.1 shall be added and read, as follows:

Group Home – Large. A facility which provides residents services to five (5) or more individuals of whom one or more are unrelated. These individuals are handicapped, aged or disabled, may be undergoing rehabilitation and are provided services to meet their needs. This includes uses supervised by any Federal, State or County health/welfare agency, such as group homes (all ages), halfway houses, resident schools and residential facilities.

SECTION 6.

Section 345 “Lot Area, Width, Building Coverage and Height, and Frontage on Approved Public Streets Requirements” shall be amended as follows:

		Minimum Lot Area	Minimum Lot Width	Maximum Building Coverage of Lot	Maximum Building Height
Group Home – Large	10 beds or less	2 acres	200 feet	40%	35 feet
For Each additional 5 beds or fraction thereof		.5 acres added to the 2 acres for each increment of 5	same	same	same

Under the existing section which indicates “Nursing Homes, Group Homes, Educational institutions” Group Homes is hereby deleted and the above regulations are applicable to Group Homes, and the existing regulations will still apply to Educational institutions.

SECTION 7.

Section 353.2 is amended to read:

“353.2 Group Homes – Small” These homes are allowed on the same size lot as a Single Family Dwellings.

SECTION 8.

The following is added to the Special Exception Uses in the Rural Village (RV) District:

344.4 Group Home – Small

344.8 Group Home – Large

SECTION 9. SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this Ordinance are severable and, if any of its provisions shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the decision of the Court shall not affect or invalidate any of the remaining provisions. It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent that this Ordinance would have been adopted with such illegal, invalid or unconstitutional provision had not been included herein.

SECTION 10. REPEALER

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances, which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall become effective five (5) days from the date of enactment.

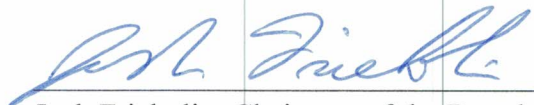
APPROVED BY the Board of Supervisors of Washington Township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, and ENACTED this 10 day of April, 2019.

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON (Lehigh County, Pennsylvania)

ATTEST:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:


Erin Stenger-Guth, Secretary


Josh Friebolin, Chairman of the Board


Timothy O'Brian, Vice Chairman


Shawn Wanamaker, Member