

OUTDOOR GATHERINGS

An Ordinance to license, regulate and control, in the interest of the public health, safety and welfare, outdoor gatherings of persons in excess of 500 in number, to provide penalties for violations thereof and to repeal all ordinances inconsistent therewith.

The Township of Sparta ordains:

15.001 Preamble.

Sec. 1. Preamble; The Township Board of Sparta Township finds and declares that the interest of the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Sparta Township require the regulation, licensing and control of assemblages of large numbers of people in excess of those normally drawing upon the health, sanitation, fire, police, transportation, utility and other public services regularly provided in this township.

15.002 Definitions.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

- a. "Outdoor Assembly", hereinafter referred to as "assembly", means any event, attended by more than 500 attendants, all or any part of which includes a theatrical exhibition, public show, display, entertainment, amusement or other exhibition, including, but not limited to parades, musical festivals, rock festivals, peace festivals, other festivals, athletic events, car shows, or similar gatherings, but does not mean: (1) an event which is conducted or sponsored by a governmental unit or agency on publicly owned land or property, or (2) an event held entirely within the confines of a permanently enclosed and covered structure, or (3) any event held entirely within property owned by and which is conducted or sponsored by any entity qualifying for tax exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1989, as amended.
- b. "Person" means any natural person, partnership, corporation, association or organization.
- c. "Sponsor" means any person who organizes, promotes, conducts, or causes to be conducted an outdoor assembly.
- d. "Attendant" means any person who obtains admission to an outdoor assembly.
- e. "Licensee" means any person to whom a license is issued pursuant to this Ordinance.

15.003 License Required.

Sec. 3. A person shall not sponsor, operate, maintain, conduct or promote an outdoor assembly in Sparta Township unless he shall have first made application for, and obtained, as hereinafter prescribed, a license for each such assembly.

15.004 Application for license.

Sec. 4. Application for a license to conduct an outdoor assembly must be made in writing on such forms and in such manner as prescribed by the clerk of the Township of Sparta, and shall be made at least 30 days prior to date of the proposed assembly. Each application shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee in accordance with the Township Fee Schedule and shall include at least the following:

- a. The name, residence and mailing address of the person making the application. (Where the person making the application is a partnership, corporation or other association, this information shall be provided for all partners, officers and directors. Where the person is a corporation, a copy of the articles of incorporation shall be filed, and the names and addresses shall be provided of all shareholders having financial interest greater than \$500.00.)
- b. A statement of the kind, character, and type of proposed assembly.
- c. The address, legal description and proof of ownership of the site **or sites** at which the proposed assembly is to be conducted. Where ownership is not vested in the prospective licensee, he shall submit an affidavit from the owner indicating his consent to the use of the site for the proposed assembly.
- d. The date or dates and hours during which the proposed assembly is to be conducted.
- e. An estimate of the maximum number of attendants expected at the assembly for each day it is conducted and a detailed explanation of the evidence of admission which will be used for accounting purposes.

15.005 Application for license; accompanying material.

Sec. 5. Each application shall be accompanied by a detailed explanation, including drawings and diagrams where applicable, of the prospective licensee's plans to provide for the following:

- a. Police and fire protection
- b. Food and water supply and facilities
- c. Health and sanitation facilities
- d. Medical facilities and services including emergency vehicles and equipment
- e. Vehicle access and parking facilities

- f. Camping and trailer facilities
- g. Illumination facilities
- h. Noise control and abatement
- i. Facilities for clean up and waste disposal
- j. Insurance and bonding arrangements.

In addition, the application shall be accompanied by a map or maps of the overall site or sites of the proposed assembly.

15.006 Application; review by public officials.

Sec. 6. On receipt by the clerk, copies of the application shall be forwarded to the chief law enforcement and health officers for the Township of Sparta, the Sparta Fire Chief, and to such other appropriate public officials as the clerk deems necessary. Such officers and officials shall review and investigate matters relevant to the application and within 10 days of receipt thereof shall report their findings and recommendations to the Township Board.

15.007 Time limit for acting on application.

Sec. 7. Within 45 days of the filing of the application, the Township Board shall issue, set conditions, prerequisite to the issuance of a license, or where a license is denied, within 5 days of such action, notice thereof must be mailed to the applicant by certified mail, and, in the case of denial, the reasons therefor shall be stated in the notice.

15.008 Denial of license.

Sec. 8. A license may be denied if:

- a. The applicant fails to comply with any or all requirements of this ordinance, or with any or all conditions imposed pursuant hereto, or with any other applicable provision of state or local law; or
- b. The applicant has knowingly made a false, misleading or fraudulent statement in the application or in any supporting document.

15.009 License to be posted; information thereon.

Sec. 9. A license shall specify the name and address of the licensee, the kind and location of the assembly, the maximum number of attendants permissible, the duration of the license and any other conditions imposed pursuant to this ordinance. It shall be posted in a conspicuous place upon the premises of the assembly, and shall not be transferred to any other person or location.

15.010 Minimum conditions to be met by licensee.

Sec. 10. In processing an application the Township Board, shall at a minimum, require the following:

- a. Security Personnel. The licensee shall employ at his own expense, such security personnel as are necessary and sufficient to provide for the adequate security and protection of the maximum number of attendants at the assembly and for the preservation of order and protection of property in and around the site of the assembly. No license shall be issued unless the chief law enforcement officer for the Township of Sparta, in cooperation with the Kent County Sheriff is satisfied that such necessary and sufficient security personnel will be provided by the licensee for the duration of the assembly.
- b. Water Facilities. The licensee shall provide potable water, sufficient in quantity and pressure to assure proper operation of all water using facilities under conditions of peak demand. Such water shall be supplied from a public water system, if available, and if not available, then from a source constructed, located, and approved in accordance with Act 274, Public Acts of 1965, and the rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, in accordance with any other applicable state or local law, or from a source and delivered and stored in a manner approved by the Kent County Health Department.
- c. Restroom Facilities. The licensee shall provide separate enclosed flush-type water closets as defined in Act 266, Public Acts of 1929, and the rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto and in accordance with any other applicable state or local law. If such flush-type facilities are not available, the Kent County Health Department may permit the use of other facilities which are in compliance with Act 273, Public Acts of 1939, and the rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, and in accordance with any other applicable state or local law.

The licensee shall provide lavatory and drinking water facilities constructed, installed, and maintained in accordance with Act 266 of the Public Acts of 1929, and the rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, and in accordance with any other applicable ordinance or statute. All lavatories shall be provided with water and soap and paper towels.

The number and type of facilities required shall be determined, on the basis of the number of attendants, in the following manner:

Facilities:

Toilets	1:300
Drinking Fountains	1:500

- d. Medical Facilities. If the assembly is not readily and quickly accessible to adequate existing medical facilities, the licensee shall be required to provide such facilities on the premises of the assembly. The kind, location, staff strength, medical and other supplies and equipment of such facilities shall be as prescribed by the Sparta Fire Chief.
- e. Liquid Waste Disposal. The licensee shall provide for liquid waste disposal in accordance with all the rules and regulations pertaining thereto established by the Kent County Health Department. If such rules and regulations are not available or if they are inadequate, then liquid waste disposal shall be in accordance with the United States Public Health Service Publication No. 526, entitled, "Manual of Septic Tank Practice." If liquid waste retention and disposal is dependent upon pumpers and haulers, they shall be licensed in accordance with Act 243, Public Acts of 1951, and the rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, and in accordance with any other applicable state or local law, and prior to issuance of any license, the licensee shall provide the Township health officer with a true copy of an executed agreement in force and effect with a licensed pumper or hauler, which agreement will assure proper, effective and frequent removal of liquid waste from the premises so as to neither create nor cause a nuisance or menace to the public health.
- f. Solid Waste Disposal. The licensee shall provide for solid waste storage on, and removed from, the premises. Storage shall be in approved, covered, rodent proof containers, provided in sufficient quantity to accommodate the number of attendants. Prior to issuance of any license, the licensee shall provide the Township health officer with a true copy of an executed agreement in force and effect with a licensed refuse collector, which agreement will assure proper, effective and frequent removal of solid waste from the premises so as to neither create nor cause a nuisance or menace to the public health unless another method approved by the Kent County Health Department is shown.

The licensee shall implement effective control measures to minimize the presence of rodents, flies, roaches and other vermin on the premises. Poisonous materials, such as insecticides or rodenticides shall not be used in any way so as to contaminate food, equipment, or otherwise constitute a hazard to the public health. Solid waste containing food waste shall be stored so as to be inaccessible to vermin. The premises shall be kept in such condition as to prevent the harborage or feeding of vermin.

- g. Public Bathing Beaches. The licensee shall provide or make available or accessible public bathing beaches only in accordance with Act 218, Public Acts of 1967, and the rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, and in accordance with any other applicable provision of state or local law.

- h. Public Swimming Pools. The licensee shall provide or make available public swimming pools only in accordance with Act 230, Public Acts of 1966, and the rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, and in accordance with any other applicable provision of state or local law.
- i. Access and Traffic Control. The licensee shall provide for ingress to and egress from the premises so as to insure the orderly flow of traffic onto and off of the premises. Access to the premises shall be from a highway or road which is a part of the county system of highways or which is a highway maintained by the State of Michigan. Traffic lanes and other space shall be provided, designated and kept open for access by ambulance, fire equipment, helicopter and other emergency vehicles. Prior to the issuance of a license, the Kent County Sheriff Department and the Sparta Fire Chief must approve the licensee's plan for access and traffic control. There must be at least two accesses to a public road, or one access route approved by the Sparta Fire Chief.
- j. Parking. The licensee shall provide a parking area sufficient to accommodate all motor vehicles, but in no case shall he provide less than one automobile space for every four (4) attendants, and no parking shall be allowed on any public road or right-of-way.
- k. Camping and Trailer Parking. A licensee who permits attendants to remain on the premises between the hours of 2:00am and 6:00am shall be provided for camping and trailer parking and facilities in accordance with Act 171, Public Acts of 1970, and the rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, and in accordance with any other applicable provision by state or local law.
- l. Illumination. The licensee shall provide electrical illumination of all occupied areas sufficient to ensure the safety and comfort of all attendants. The licensee's lighting plan shall be approved by the Township Electrical Inspector.
- m. Insurance. The licensee shall obtain public liability and property damage insurance in amounts specified by the Township Board from a company or companies approved by the Commissioner of Insurance of the State of Michigan, which insurance shall insure liability for death or injury to persons or damage to property which may result from the conduct of the assembly or conduct incident thereto and which insurance shall remain in full force and effect in the specified amounts for the duration of the license. The evidence of insurance shall include an endorsement to the effect that the insurance company shall notify the clerk of Sparta Township in writing at least 10 days before the expiration or cancellation of said insurance.
- n. Bonding. Before the issuance of a license, the licensee shall obtain, from a corporate bonding company authorized to do business in Michigan, a corporate surety bond in the amount specified by the Township Board in a

form to be approved by the Township attorney, conditioned upon the licensee's faithful compliance with all of the terms and provisions of this ordinance and all applicable provisions of state or local law, and which shall indemnify the Township, its agents, officers, and employees and the Township Board against any and all loss, injury or damage whatever arising out of or in any way connected with the assembly and which shall indemnify the owners of property adjoining the assembly site for any costs attributable to cleaning up and/or removing debris, trash, or other waste resultant from the assembly, and any person or property damage done by the attendants of the outdoor assembly.

- o. Fire Protection. The licensee shall, at his own expense, take adequate steps as determined by the Sparta Fire Chief, to ensure fire protection.
- p. Sound Producing Equipment. Sound producing equipment, including but not limited to public address systems, radios, phonographs, musical instruments and other recording devices, shall not be operated on the premises of the assembly so as to be unreasonably loud or raucous, or so as to be a nuisance or disturbance to the peace and tranquility of the citizen of Sparta Township and in no case shall the decibel level exceed 60 decibels between the hours of 9:00 AM and 11:00 PM, and 50 decibels between the hours of 11:00 PM and 9:00 AM at the nearest public road.
- q. Access Gates There shall be sufficient gates properly located so as to provide ready and safe ingress and egress.
- r. Miscellaneous. Prior to the issuance of a license, the Township Board may impose any other condition(s) reasonably calculated to protect the health, safety, welfare, and property of attendants or of citizens of the Township of Sparta.

15.011 Revocation

Sec. 11.

- a. The Township Board may revoke a license whenever the licensee, his employee or agents, fails, neglects or refuses to fully comply with any and all provisions and requirements set forth herein or with any and all provisions, regulations, ordinances, statutes, or other laws incorporated herein by reference.
- b. It shall be unlawful for a licensee, his employee, or agent, to knowingly:
 - 1. Advertise, promote or sell tickets to, conduct, or operate an assembly without first obtaining a license as herein provided.
 - 2. Conduct or operate an assembly in such a manner as to create a public or private nuisance.

3. Conduct or permit, within the assembly, any obscene display, exhibition, show, play, entertainment or amusement.
 4. Permit any person on the premises to cause or create a disturbance in, around, or near the assembly by obscene or disorderly conduct.
 5. Permit any person to unlawfully consume, sell, or possess, intoxicating liquor while on the premises.
 6. Permit any person to unlawfully use, sell, or possess any narcotics, narcotic drugs, drugs or other substances as defined in Act 343, Public Acts of 1952.
- c. Any person, corporation, firm, or other entity who violates any provision of this ordinance is responsible for a municipal civil infraction, subject to payment of a civil fine in accordance with the Township Fee Schedule, plus costs and other sanctions, for each violation, as authorized by Sparta Township Ordinance No. 96-4, as amended, and other applicable laws. Repeat offenses under this ordinance shall be subject to increased fines in the amounts as provided by Section 2(c)(2) of the Sparta Township Ordinance No. 96-4, as amended.
- d. It is further provided that any of the above violations is a sufficient basis for revocation of the license and for the enjoining in the circuit court of the assembly.
(amend. By ord. no. 99-8 adopt. Nov. 11, 1999)

15.012 Severability

Sec. 12. If any portion of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be found to be invalid by a court, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining portions or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid portion or application, provided such remaining portions are not determined by the court to be inoperable, and to this end this ordinance is declared to be severable.

15.013 Effective Date

Sec. 13. This ordinance shall be effective from and after 30 days after publication hereof, and all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.