

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER SAUCON
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-03

AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOWER SAUCON

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOWER SAUCON, COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA AMENDING AND REVISING CHAPTER 170 (VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC), ARTICLE II (TRUCK TRAFFIC), SECTION 170-4 (OPERATION RESTRICTIONS) OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LOWER SAUCON TO PROVIDE FOR TRUCK PROHIBITIONS ON RINGHOFFER ROAD (T-400), SHERRY HILL ROAD (T-401), AND COUNTRYSIDE LANE (T-398), AMENDING AND REVISING CHAPTER 170 (VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC), ARTICLE IV, SECTION 170-23 (STOP INTERSECTIONS) TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADDITION OF A STOP INTERSECTION AT PLEASANT VIEW ROAD AND HILLSIDE DRIVE IN THE NORTHWEST DIRECTION, AND TO PROVIDE FOR A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF \$500 FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE TRUCK PROHIBITIONS OF THIS ORDINANCE AND FOR ALL VIOLATIONS OF CHAPTER 170, ARTICLE II.

WHEREAS, Lower Saucon Township is a Township of the Second Class, Optional Plan of Government, located in Northampton County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Lower Saucon adopted Ordinance # 98-17 on May 20, 1998, enacting the Code of the Township of Lower Saucon (hereinafter referred to as the “Code”); and

WHEREAS, the Lower Saucon Township Council (“Council”) desires to amend the Code of Ordinances of the Township of Lower Saucon to prohibit the operation of trucks and other non-passenger car vehicles on certain roadways within the Township of Lower Saucon; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, 75 Pa.C.S.A. §§4902(a) & (b) provide that local authorities may prohibit the operation of vehicles and may impose restrictions as to the weight or size of vehicles operating upon Township roads; and

WHEREAS, Hanover Engineering Associates, Inc. conducted and completed a Truck Restriction Study for Ringhoffer Road, Sherry Hill Road, and Countryside Lane, dated January 2023; and

WHEREAS, the conclusions stated in the aforementioned Study provide for the imposition of truck prohibitions on the studied roadways; and

WHEREAS, the Township has determined that there exist certain physical conditions of roadways, hazardous traffic conditions, and other safety factors that require the imposition of truck prohibitions on Ringhoffer Road, Sherry Hill Road, and Countryside Lane; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Lower Saucon desires to amend certain Sections of Chapter 170 (Vehicles and Traffic), to prohibit the operation of trucks of any kind over and upon Ringhoffer Road (T-400), Sherry Hill Road (T-400), and Countryside Lane (T-398); as provided by the provisions of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code; and

WHEREAS, the Council has determined that the imposition of truck prohibitions on the aforementioned roadways will be in the best interests of the Township and its residents, and that increasing the fine from \$50 to a maximum of \$500 for any violations of Chapter 170, Article II; and

WHEREAS, the Township has complied with all applicable pre-requisites and/or requirements, including the applicable engineering and traffic studies, under the law with regard to the truck prohibitions and the installation of traffic devices; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, 75 Pa.C.S.A. §§4902(a) & (b) provide that school buses, emergency vehicles and vehicles making local deliveries or pickups may be exempted from imposed truck restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, 75 Pa.C.S.A. §4902(g) provides for penalties for any person operating a vehicle in violation of the restriction imposed; and

WHEREAS, the Council has also determined that it is in the best interests of the Township and its residents to install a stop sign at the intersection of Pleasant View Road and Hillside Drive for vehicles travelling in the northwest direction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED by the Council of the Township of Lower Saucon, Northampton County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, that the provisions of the Code of the Township of Lower Saucon are hereby amended as follows:

SECTION 1. Whereas Clauses

The foregoing Whereas clauses are incorporated herein as if the same were fully set forth again at length.

SECTION 2. Enactment

This Ordinance is enacted pursuant to the authority conferred by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania “Vehicle Code”, Act of 1976, June 17, 1962, No. 81, Section 1, effective July 1, 1977 (75 Pa. C.S.A. § 101 et seq.), as amended and is intended to include and be subject to all provisions of Section 4902 of the “Vehicle Code”, 75 Pa. C.S.A. §4902 and all Pennsylvania Department of Transportation regulations promulgated under the “Vehicle Code”, by way of illustration and not limitation, under Sections 4902 and 6103 (75 Pa. C.S.A. §4902 and 6103).

This Ordinance is enacted pursuant to a Traffic Study prepared by Hanover Engineering Associates, Inc. conducted and completed for Ringhoffer Road, Sherry Hill Road, and Countryside Lane, entitled “Engineering and Traffic Study for Truck Restrictions on Ringhoffer Road (T-400), Sherry Hill Road (T-401), and Countryside Lane (T-398) in Lower Saucon Township, Northampton County”– File identifier: HEA Project LS 2022-40”, and dated January 2023.

SECTION 3. Amendment to Chapter 170 (Vehicles and Traffic), Article II, Section 170- 4 (Operation restrictions)

Chapter 170, Vehicles and Traffic, Article II, Section §170-4 of the Code of the Township of Lower Saucon is hereby amended by revising subsection “B” as follows:

§170-4 Operation restrictions

- “B. 1. Frederick Street between the boundary line of the Borough of Fountain Hill and Route 378, SR 0378 (Wyandotte Street)
2. Ringhoffer Road (T-400) - Entire length
 3. Sherry Hill Road (T-401) - Entire length
 4. Countryside Lane (T-398) - Entire length.”

SECTION 4. Erection of signs

The Township shall erect or cause to be erected and maintained truck restriction signs designating the restrictions at proper locations of the portions of roads restricted as provided in this Ordinance. In the case of a restriction on a road which has not begun or ended at an intersection with an unrestricted highway, the Township shall also place an advance

informational sign at the intersection nearest each end of the restricted portion of the road which would allow drivers to avoid the restricted portion of road.

SECTION 5. Amendment to Chapter 170 (Vehicles and Traffic), Article II, Section 170- 6 (Violations and penalties)

Chapter 170, Vehicles and Traffic, Article II, Section §170-6 of the Code of the Township of Lower Saucon is hereby amended by revising the fine amount from \$50 to \$500.

SECTION 6. Amendment to Chapter 170 (Vehicles and Traffic), Article IV, Section 170- 23 (Stop Intersections)

Chapter 170, Vehicles and Traffic, Article IV, Section §170-23 of the Code of the Township of Lower Saucon is hereby amended by adding a stop intersection as follows:

Stop Highway	Through Highway	Direction for Stop
Pleasant View Road	Hillside Drive	Northwest

SECTION 7. Severability

The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If any sentence, clause, or Section of this Ordinance is for any reason found to be unconstitutional, illegal, or invalid; such decision shall not affect the validity of any of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance. It is hereby declared as a legislative intent that this Ordinance would have been adopted had such unconstitutional illegal or invalid provision not been included herein.

SECTION 8. Repealer


All ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 9. Effective Date

This Ordinance shall become effective ten (10) days after adoption thereof.

ENACTED and ORDAINED this 22nd day of March, 2023.

ATTEST


Mark Hudson
Township Manager

LOWER SAUCON TOWNSHIP


Jason Banonis
Council President