

NOTICE OF ADOPTION
MORATORIUM ORDINANCE
FARM LABOR HOUSING
CHESTER TOWNSHIP, OTTAWA COUNTY

At a regular meeting of the Township Board for Chester Township held on November 8, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., the Township Board adopted a moratorium ordinance (Ordinance No. 2021-11-01) (the “Moratorium Ordinance”) which places a temporary four-month moratorium on the construction, installation and expansion of farm labor housing within Chester Township. A summary of the Moratorium Ordinance is as follows:

Article 1. **Findings.**

This Article contains the findings and purposes for the Moratorium Ordinance, including allowing the Chester Township Planning Commission and Township Board to have more time for drafting and adopting potential amendments to the Chester Township Zoning Ordinance regarding farm labor housing.

Article 2. **Farm Labor Housing Definition.**

For purposes of this Ordinance, “farm labor housing” shall mean as follows: Farm labor housing is also commonly referred to as an agricultural labor camp, migrant labor housing or housing for migrant workers, migrant farm workers, farm workers or migratory laborers. Living quarters, including housing accommodations, apartments, rooming houses, dormitories, and mobile homes maintained directly or indirectly in connection with any work of or place where work is being performed by seasonal or permanent farm or agricultural workers (even off site), whether or not rent is paid or

reserved for use or occupancy. Farm labor housing is also subject to state and federal requirements.

Article 3. Administrative Action.

Every Township official, body, board and commission is prohibited from issuing certain Township permits, approvals, variances, etc. for any farm labor housing while the four-month moratorium is in effect. Also, during the moratorium, no Township official, employee, body, commission, etc. can issue, process or approve any covered application, permit, license, etc. for any farm labor housing.

Article 4. Prohibited Construction, Conduct or Activity.

During the time that this moratorium is in effect, no farm labor housing (including any structures and buildings involving farm labor housing) shall be built, constructed, installed, commenced or begun anywhere within Chester Township. Furthermore, no lawfully existing farm labor housing shall be expanded, increased or intensified while this moratorium is in effect. However, normal maintenance, repair, and sanitary and safety upgrades are allowed.

Article 5. Term of this Moratorium.

The moratorium imposed by the Ordinance shall be effective for four months after the effective date of this Ordinance or until the appropriate amendments occur to the Zoning Ordinance, whichever occurs first. Prior to the expiration of the moratorium, the Township may extend the moratorium to a longer period of time.

Article 6. Exception.

This moratorium shall not apply to any farm labor housing within Chester Township that was lawfully in existence, complete and being used by farm laborers or migrants as of November 1, 2021. Furthermore, this moratorium shall not apply to any farm labor housing for which any and all required township, county, state and federal permits had been obtained and for which substantial construction had begun on the buildings or structures comprised the farm labor housing on the site where the farm labor housing is or will be located on or before November 1, 2021.

Article 7. Severability.

Should any portion of the Ordinance be declared invalid by a court, the rest of the Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

Article 8. Effective Date.

The Ordinance shall become effective upon the expiration of one (1) day after this notice appears in the newspaper.

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A full copy of the Moratorium Ordinance may be purchased, inspected or reviewed at the Chester Township offices located at 3509 Sehler Street, Conklin, Michigan 49403 during normal business hours, Monday 1pm-7pm; Wednesday and Thursday 9am-2pm. or by contacting the Township Clerk at (616) 899-5544.

This new Moratorium Ordinance is declared to be an emergency ordinance and will be effective upon the expiration of one (1) day after this notice appears in the newspaper.

Respectfully submitted by

By: Helen Dietrich
Chester Township Clerk
(616) 899-5544