

## **EMERGENCY REGULATION 2021-01**

### **Temporary Procedure for Authorization of Micro Food Pantries**

Effective February 1, 2021

On February 1, 2020, I declared a “state of emergency” within our jurisdiction in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, COVID-19 has had severe consequences for the Michigan economy, with Michigan having a 7.5% unemployment rate as of December 2020. Aware that food scarcity is an issue in Michigan, with approximately 1,359,650 Michigan residents struggling with hunger according to Feeding America, I am concerned that the economic impact of COVID-19 has increased food scarcity in the Charter Township of Meridian (the “Township”).

To provide for the health and safety of persons impacted by COVID-19 by allowing the construction and operation of Micro Food Pantries by Meridian Charter Township citizens, I declare this Emergency Regulation to be effective within the boundaries of Meridian Charter and enact the following measures pursuant to my authority under the Michigan Emergency Management Act MCL 30.410.

1. Definitions.
  - A. “Micro Food Pantry” means an outdoor storage unit no larger than twenty-seven (27) cubic feet in storage area, that facilitates food donations by allowing members of the community to place non-perishable, non-expired food items and other essentials in the storage unit for donation and allows any individual who require the items to take them.
  - B. “Micro Food Pantry Sponsor” means the individual filing the Micro Food Pantry Application with the Township, and is the individual responsible for the maintenance, operation and final removal of the Micro Food Pantry.
2. The Township hereby establishes a temporary protocol for the authorization and regulation of Micro Food Pantries at locations approved by the Director of Community Planning and Development.
3. Micro Food Pantries can be located on private property with the written consent of the property owner and can be located on Township property with the written consent of the Township Manager. By providing written consent to a Micro Food Pantry, private property owners agree that if a Micro Food Pantry Sponsor fails to remove a Micro Food Pantry within seven (7) days of being directed to do so by the Township or expiration of this emergency regulation, the Township may enter the property to remove the Micro Food Pantry at the expense of the Micro Food Pantry Sponsor.
4. Township Code provisions that conflict with this temporary procedure for authorization of Micro Food Pantries are suspended for the duration of this Emergency Regulation.

5. Any nuisances (including, but not limited to, noise, parking issues, etc.) that arise from operation of the Micro Food Pantry must be mitigated by the Micro Food Pantry Sponsor and/or property owner to eliminate all negative impacts on surrounding properties.
6. A Micro Food Pantry shall not be attached to or cause damage to the street or sidewalk or to trees, benches, landscaping, or other objects lawfully located in the right-of-way.
7. A Micro Food Pantry shall not obstruct Township access to a fire hydrant or any Township sewer or water system.
8. Micro Food Pantry Sponsors are responsible for the removal of all trash and debris from the area surrounding the Micro Food Pantry.
9. Individuals may only donate non-expired, non-perishable food in undamaged original packaging to a Micro Food Pantry or non-expired, undamaged essentials in their original packaging.
10. To apply to sponsor a Micro Food Pantry, a Micro Food Pantry Sponsor must submit an application to the Township on a form made available by the Township and abide by all requirements for Micro Food Pantries identified in this emergency regulation. The application shall be submitted to and approved, approved with conditions, or denied by the Meridian Charter Township Director of Community Planning and Development.
11. Application for the Micro Food Pantry will be reviewed by and approved by the Township Director of Community Planning and Development. Any conditions included in the approval shall be stated in writing to the applicant. If the request is denied, the Township Director of Community Planning and Development shall state the reasons for denial in writing and provide a copy to the applicant. An appeal of a denial shall be provided in writing to the Township Manager. The Township Manager shall then determine whether to affirm or reverse the Township Director of Community Planning and Development's decision.
12. The Micro Food Pantry Sponsor shall pay any applicable nonrefundable permit fee as established by the Township Manager to address the costs incurred by the Township in application review and approval.
13. The Micro Food Pantry Sponsor shall agree to hold the Township harmless for any injury or damages sustained in connection to operating the Micro Food Pantry. In addition, the Micro Food Pantry Sponsor shall agree to indemnify the Township, and cover the cost of its attorneys' fees, for any claim that arise out of the operation of the Micro Food Pantry.
14. Approval of the Micro Food Pantry does not suspend compliance with applicable state or local law, except as identified in this Emergency Regulation. Micro Food Pantry Sponsors and the use of Micro Food Pantries shall strictly comply with all other applicable Township emergency

regulations, ordinances, codes, and resolutions that are not suspended by this emergency regulation.

15. Authorization of Micro Food Pantries are temporary approvals. They provide a temporary license for use of space for the Micro Food Pantry and do not grant any vested right or property right. Approvals may be revoked by the Township Director of Community Planning and Development or Township Manager, upon noncompliance with this Emergency Regulation.
16. All approvals may be rescinded at any time at the discretion of the Township Board prior to the expiration of this Emergency Regulation.
17. This Emergency Regulation shall continue until a local state of emergency is declared to no longer exist within the Township by the Township Supervisor or Township Board.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

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Ronald J Styka, Township Supervisor of Meridian  
Charter Township