

**TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLE PAXTON TOWNSHIP
DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

ORDINANCE NO. 2026 - 01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLE PAXTON,
DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING
REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS APPLICABLE TO
SOLICITING AND PEDDLING GOODS IN THE TOWNSHIP.

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors is empowered, pursuant to Section 6601 of the Second Class Township Code, to enact and adopt ordinances for the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Township has had an influx of door-to-door salespersons, peddlers, and others soliciting for the sale of goods and services directly to citizens; and

WHEREAS, residents are concerned with the lack of registry or oversight of peddlers and solicitors in the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township now wishes to enact an ordinance requiring the registration of peddlers and solicitors in order to monitor individuals

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED by the Supervisors of the Township of Middle Paxton, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, as follows:

SECTION 1. Enactment of Peddling and Solicitation Ordinance of Middle Paxton Township.

§ 200-1. Purpose.

This chapter is adopted to regulate the distribution of certain materials, peddling, soliciting and related activities within the Township of Middle Paxton. The registration of persons engaged in the above-mentioned activities is required so that the identity of persons going door to door or distributing materials within the Township may be established, so that general regulations may be more effectively enforced for the protection and maintenance of the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the Township and to prevent dishonest business practices and dishonest solicitations of funds in the Township.

§ 200-2. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

CANVASSING

The practice of going from house to house, place to place or street to street for the purpose of distributing literature, pamphlets, handbooks and the like in order to distribute information or seek support, specifically including but not limited to the circulation of a petition and the seeking of contributions for a not for profit cause and not for commercial purposes.

PEDDLING

The selling or offering for sale of any goods, wares, services or merchandise for immediate delivery, which the person selling or offering for sale carries with said person in traveling, or has in possession or control, upon any of the streets or sidewalks, from house to house, by visitation to private residences, or by entering in or upon private or public property or business establishments within the Township.

PEDDLER

Any person who engages in peddling.

PERSON

Any natural person, association, partnership, firm, organization or corporation.

SOLICITOR

Any person who engages in soliciting.

SOLICITING

The practice of going either from house to house, place to place or street to street, traveling by foot, automotive vehicle or any other type of conveyance, soliciting, taking or attempting to take orders for the sale of merchandise or services of any kind for future performance or delivery, whether or not such individual has, carries or exposes for sale a sample of the merchandise or services, and whether or not said person is collecting advance payments on such sales or orders, or who engages in any of the foregoing activities from a stationary location on any street or other public place.

§ 200-3. Permit Required for Peddling and Solicitation.

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in peddling or soliciting, or otherwise sell, offer for sale or distribute merchandise, printed materials, or services within the Township without first filing an application for registration and obtaining a registration certificate from the Township.
- B. Such registration certificate shall be issued only after the person or persons seeking to obtain such permit have registered with the Township in accordance with the requirements of this chapter.
- C. Every person to whom a registration certificate has been issued under this article shall carry the certificate on his or her person at all times and exhibit it, upon request, to any police officer or to any person on whom he or she shall call or with whom he or she shall talk in relation to peddling and soliciting.

§ 200-4. Registration Certificate.

Peddlers, solicitors, distributors and transient merchants may conduct such activities within the Township only upon the receipt of a registration certificate, adheres to the regulations set forth herein. All certificates shall expire on the date shown thereon, but in no case shall any certificate be issued for a period of time of more than one month.

§ 200-5. Application procedure.

- A. Every applicant for a certificate under this chapter shall file with the Township a sworn written application, which information shall be provided under the penalty of law as provided in 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904, on a form to be furnished by the Township, which shall give or be accompanied by the following information or documents:
1. The name and description of the applicant who shall be the person soliciting or peddling.
 2. The permanent home address and full local address of the applicant.
 3. A brief statement of the nature of the activity and a description of the merchandise or service to be sold or performed.
 4. The name and address and telephone number of the employer, company, organization or firm represented.
 5. If the Peddler or Solicitor is engaged in commercial activity for a business, the application shall be accompanied by a letter or other written statement from the company engaging the applicant certifying that the applicant is authorized to act as the representative of the company.
 6. The place or places of residence of the applicant for the preceding three years.
 7. The date on which canvassing, soliciting or peddling is to commence and end.
 8. The nature of the goods or merchandise to be sold or offered for sale or the nature of the services to be furnished.
 9. Whether the applicant has been convicted of a crime, disorderly person's offense or violation of any ordinance relating to canvassing, soliciting and/or peddling and, if so, when, where and the nature of the offense.
 10. Whether any motor vehicle will be used in connection with the canvassing, soliciting or peddling and, if so, the make, year, color, type and license plate number.
 11. The route planned to be taken and the corresponding list of days the person will be canvassing, soliciting or peddling along that route.
 12. A physical description of the applicant, including age, weight and height.
 13. At least two (2) personal references.
- B. In the case of solicitation of contributions, the certificate shall be issued to the organization, which shall supply each of its agents or solicitors with credentials, in a form approved by the Township, giving the name of the solicitors, the name of the sponsoring organization, the purpose for which the solicitation is being made, the signature of the managing officer of the organization, the date during which the solicitation is authorized to be made and the number of the registration certificate issued to the organization by the Township.
- C. Except as provided in Subsection B above, where an organization has several agents peddling, soliciting or distributing merchandise or printed material, each agent shall be registered separately. Upon expiration of a certificate, a new certificate may be issued upon compliance with all the provisions of this chapter.

- D. Registration permits are not transferrable between persons, even if employed by the same employer or peddling on behalf of the same merchant.

§ 200-6. Fees.

The fees to be paid in conjunction with the issuance of a nontransferable registration certificate pursuant to this chapter, payable to the Township at the time the application is made, shall be set by the Board of Supervisors by resolution. Such fee is imposed for the purpose of defraying the costs of administering and enforcing the provisions of this chapter.

§ 200-7. Suspension or Revocation of Permit.

- A. Registration certificates issued under this chapter may be revoked by the Township for any of the following causes:
 - 1. Fraud, misrepresentation or false statement in the application for the registration certificate;
 - 2. Fraud, misrepresentation or false statement made in the course of carrying on the licensed business or solicitation in the Township;
 - 3. Any violation of this chapter;
 - 4. Conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude or of a violation of any ordinance concerning soliciting, peddling or canvassing; or
 - 5. Conducting the licensed business or solicitation in the Township in an unlawful manner or in such a manner as to constitute a menace to the health, safety or general welfare of the public.
- B. Notice of the revocation of a registration certificate shall be given in writing, setting forth specifically the grounds of the revocation. Such notice shall be given personally or mailed, certified, return receipt requested, to the licensee at the provided address. The revocation shall be effective immediately upon issuance.

§ 200-8. Restrictions.

No person shall:

- A. Peddle, solicit or distribute merchandise except during daylight hours only, but, in any event, not earlier than 9:00 A.M. nor later than 7:00 P.M.;
- B. Attempt to peddle, solicit or distribute merchandise or printed material without first identifying themselves as a peddler, solicitor or distributor registered with the Township;
- C. Have exclusive right to any location in the public streets or operate in any congested area where the operations might impede or inconvenience the public;
- D. Enter or attempt to enter the residence of any person in the Township without an express invitation from the occupant of such residence;
- E. Conduct themselves in such a manner as to become objectionable to or annoy an occupant of any residence;

- F. Shout, cry out, blow a horn, ring a bell or use any sound-making or amplifying device upon any of the streets, parks or public places of the Township or upon private premises, where sound of sufficient volume is emitted or produced therefrom to be capable of being plainly heard upon the streets, avenues, parks or other public places of the Township or upon private premises, for the purpose of attracting attention to any merchandise or services;
- G. Litter the streets, public places or properties within the Township with any merchandise or printed material;
- H. Violate any motor vehicle law of the Township or the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; or
- I. Enter onto any property on which is located a sign or signs stating “No solicitors” or carrying a similar message forbidding the entry of any person onto the property.

§ 200-9. Exemptions.

The following persons or organizations are exempt from the payment of fees upon compliance with all other provisions of this chapter and submission of applicable identification and documents to support the claim of exemption:

- A. Any school, political or civic organization, benevolent society, service club or organization, not for profit, whose principal office is located in the Township.
- B. Any person engaged in the delivery of goods, wares or merchandise or other articles or things, in the regular course of business, to the premises of the persons who had previously ordered the same or were entitled to receive the same by reason of a prior agreement.
- C. A person honorably discharged from the military services of the United States is exempt from the requirement to pay a fee in accordance with 60 P.S. § 22.
- D. Persons under the age of 18 years who take orders for and deliver newspapers, greeting cards, candy and the like, or who represent the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts or similar organizations and take orders for and deliver cookies and the like.
- E. Persons engaged in Canvassing as defined herein.
- F. Bona fide candidates for elective office.

§ 200-10. Interpretation.

This chapter shall not be applied so as to occasion any undue burden upon interstate commerce with respect to any business or activity referred to herein. It is the intent of the Board of Supervisors that this chapter be interpreted so as to achieve the primary purpose of protecting the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the Township and not to unduly regulate or control the proper conduct of any business or commercial property.

§ 200-11. Violations and penalties.

Any person who shall be convicted of violating or failing to comply with the provisions of this chapter before any District Justice shall be punishable by a fine of not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$1,000, together with costs of prosecution, and, in default of payment of such fine and costs, the violator shall be subject to imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed 30 days.

The continuation of such violation for each successive day shall constitute a separate offense, and the person or persons allowing or permitting the continuation of a violation may be punished as provided above for each separate offense.

SECTION 2. Except only as amended, modified and changed herein, the ordinances of the Township of Middle Paxton as originally enacted and as previously amended shall remain in all other respects in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. If any section, sub-section, provision, regulation, limitation, restriction, sentence, clause, phrase or word in this Ordinance is declared by any reason to be illegal, unconstitutional, or invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect or impair the validity of this Ordinance or any other section, sub-section, provision, regulation, limitation, restriction, sentence, clause, phrase, word or remaining portion of this Ordinance or the Middle Paxton Code of Ordinances. The Township Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have adopted this Ordinance and each section, sub-section, phrase and word thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more of the sections, sub-sections, provisions, regulations, limitations, restrictions, sentences, clauses, phrases or words may be declared illegal, unconstitutional or invalid.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall become effective in accordance with applicable law.

DULY ORDAINED this ___ day of _____, 2026, by the Board of Supervisors of Middle Paxton Township, Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, in lawful session duly assembled.

ATTEST:

MIDDLE PAXTON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Secretary

By: _____
Ryan Evans, Chair
Board of Supervisors