

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BROWNSTOWN  
WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Ordinance No. 311

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A BROWNSTOWN TOWNSHIP  
PUBLIC SAFETY WALL OF HONOR AND DETERMINING AND  
REGULATING THE INCLUSION THEREON AND USE THEREOF

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BROWNSTOWN, COUNTY OF WAYNE,  
HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Sec. 1. Scope

The provisions of this chapter shall apply to the Brownstown Public Safety Wall of Honor.

Sec 2. Purpose

The Brownstown Public Safety Wall of Honor is hereby established to honor the men and women who serve, or have served, with honor and integrity, the citizens of Brownstown Township, the State of Michigan, and the United States of America, as members of the Brownstown Police or Fire Departments. It shall be a place for all to reflect on the service and sacrifice that the Township's Public Safety Employees make while protecting the well being of its citizens and property.

Sec. 3. Wall of Honor Use; Ceremonies

It is recognized that Public Safety employees of the Township make many sacrifices while serving its citizens. These sacrifices can range up to, and include, placing their lives in jeopardy for the service and protection of others. Simply put, Public Safety Employees often run toward situations that most would flee from. To honor the Public Safety Employees for these selfless sacrifices, the Wall of Honor shall be used as a ceremonial focal point to honor those sworn Public Safety personnel whom have dedicated their entire working career to serve and protect its citizens, and to those who may make the ultimate sacrifice in doing so. Two types of ceremonies shall be provided to honor this service and sacrifice; first, **Retirement Honors Ceremony**, and second, **Line of Duty Death Ceremony**.

#### Sec. 4. Retirement Honors

The Wall of Honor shall include a section to honor those members who dedicated their career to protecting the citizens of Brownstown, and have reached full Retirement Honors as specified for their profession, or whose service has led to early departure either through injury or disability. Upon retirement, the Township Board, or its designee, shall verify that the retirement was obtained in good standing and in compliance with the Retirement Honors criteria. A Retirement Honors plaque, engraved with the member's full name (no nick names), start date, retirement date, and retirement rank shall be commissioned within three months after the official retirement date.

Plaques will be installed on the wall each year on the first Friday of June. The Chief shall then offer the retiree the opportunity to receive their retirement badge at a ceremony at the Wall of Honor with the assistance of the Brownstown Honor Guard. With approval of the retiree, the ceremony shall be open to their family and friends, current or retired members of the agency, other Township employees, the Township Board, and if so desired, citizens. In addition, with the retiree's permission, a brief dedication summarizing the history of their career will be posted on the Department's website, in an appropriate section, to include any photos of the ceremony, history, etc. The Township Board, or designee, shall request official proclamations from Elected Officials to include, the Township Supervisor, the County Executive, members of the State Legislature and the Governor, honoring the retired member for their service. These shall be presented to the retiree during the ceremony at the Wall of Honor. Elected Officials, who are able, shall be encouraged to attend and make the presentations in person, if possible. The Honor Guard Commanding Officer will coordinate with the Chief and the retiree to assure the retiree receives the appropriate honors at the ceremony.

#### Sec. 5. Retirement Honors Criteria

**Police:** Members who have attained 25 years of continuous service as a police officer in the Township of Brownstown and whose retirement is not part of an agreement stemming from disciplinary action, or a plea bargain to a criminal charge, or civil action arising from the member's actions or omissions.

**Fire:** Members who have attained 25 years of continuous service as a firefighter in the Township of Brownstown, or is a founding member, hired full time between October 2000 and October 2001, who has met MERS retirement requirements. Qualification mandates that the member's retirement is not part of an agreement stemming from disciplinary action, or a plea bargain to a criminal charge, or civil action arising from the member's actions or omissions.

Any member who has sustained a duty related injury or illness during the course of service, which earned a citation for valor or bravery, or as authorized by the Honor Guard by unanimous vote with Township Board concurrence, which injury or illness

prevents them from continuing service to attain Retirement Honors as to years of continuous service.

#### Sec 6. Line of Duty Deaths

The Wall of Honor shall have a designated section dedicated to memorializing members of the Agency who give the ultimate sacrifice while providing service to the community. In the event of the death of a member, due to a duty related incident, the Township Board, or designee, shall cause the name of the deceased member to be engraved upon the wall, along with his/her starting and end of watch dates and rank. The member's name will be placed inside the arch, under their respective service plaque, at a time most convenient for the surviving family of the deceased member. The Township Board shall direct the Honor Guard to prepare for a memorial ceremony. At the memorial ceremony, the Chief, or designee, shall present to the family of the deceased, any medals or citations (Medal of Valor, Citation of Bravery) due the deceased member for their actions at the time of death. The engraved member's name will then be attached or unveiled with full honors provided by the Honor Guard. With the approval of the deceased's family, the ceremony is to be open to the surviving family and friends, current or retired members of the agency, other Township Employees, the Township Board, and, if so desired, citizens. In addition, with the family's permission, a brief memorial summarizing the history of the member's career will be posted on the Department's website, in the appropriate section, to include any photos of the ceremony, history, etc. The Honor Guard Commanding Officer shall coordinate with the Chief and the surviving family to assure that the member receives the appropriate honors at the ceremony.

#### Sec. 7. Service Related Deaths Wall of Honor Ceremony Requirements

The member must have been a member in good standing, currently employed as a Brownstown Police Officer or Firefighter.

The incident causing or contributing to the death must be a duty related death, and entitle the member to an award under "The Public Safety Officers Benefits Act", or while acting in this capacity off-duty while providing law enforcement service or fire service to this Township, State or Country.

While serving this community, state or country while on leave due to call up to service as a member of any active reserve unit of any of the United States Armed Forces.

Sec. 8. Other Ceremonies

From time to time, it is recognized that acts or events may arise that should be recognized by an Honors Ceremony. At the discretion of the Township Board, Honors Ceremonies that do not fit the above retirement or duty related death criteria shall be coordinated with the Honor Guard Commanding Officer to assure an appropriate ceremony is conducted.

Sec. 9. Severability and Captions

This Ordinance and the various parts, sections, subsections, phrases and clauses thereof are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, section, subsection, sentence, phrase or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby. The Captions included at the beginning of each section are for convenience only and shall not be considered a part of this Ordinance.

Sec. 10. Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed, only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Sec. 11. Effective Date

This Ordinance shall be effective immediately after publication.

Sec. 12. Publication

This Ordinance was approved and adopted by the Township Board of Brownstown Charter Township, Wayne County, Michigan, on September 3, 2013, after introduction and a first reading on July 15, 2013, and publication after first reading as required by Act 359 of the Michigan Public Acts of 1947, as amended. This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon publication, in The News Herald, a newspaper having general circulation in the Township.

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Andrew Linko, Supervisor

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Sherry A. Berecz, Clerk

I further certify that the foregoing was published in The News Herald, a newspaper of general circulation in the Charter township of Brownstown, on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2013.

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Sherry A. Berez, Clerk