

TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON

(3) PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

October 4, 2017

7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL: SCHREIBER - DiPLACIDO - BOWMAN - SPIEGELMAN  
(scheduled absence), KALINOSKI

ALSO ATTENDING: Township Manager MANFREDI  
Township Solicitor CLARKE  
Chief of Police LIVINGOOD  
Traffic Safety Office FREED  
Fire Marshal CLARK  
Fire Admin Assistant SCHOLLY

MINUTES:

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2017 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

PS1. Consider Proposed Ordinance 2143 Creating Tax Incentives for Members of the Abington Township Fire Department and Montgomery County Second Alarmers (EMS) and Motion to Advertise New Ordinance.  
(PS-100417-01)

Consider Proposed Ordinance 2143 Creating Tax Incentives for Members of the Abington Township Fire Department and Montgomery County Second Alarmers (EMS) and Motion to Advertise Ordinance 2143 for Adoption at the 11.09.2017 regular public meeting.

PS2. Resolution #17-022 Sobriety Checkpoint Grant  
(PS-100417-02)

Motion to authorize Township officials to accept a grant award from the Bureau of Highway Safety and Traffic Engineering in the amount of \$55,000.00 with the Township's matching portion approximately \$480.00.

TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON

(3) PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

October 4, 2017  
7:00 P.M.

PS3.  
(PS-100417-3)

Adopt Ordinance 2144

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2144 amending Chapter 156 (Vehicles and Traffic) Article II (Traffic Regulations) Section 14 (Stop Intersections); Article III (Parking Regulations) Section 25 (Parking Prohibited At All Times; No Parking Between Signs; No Parking Here To Corner; Parking Prohibited Except Certain Hours; No Stopping Or Standing) and Section 27 (Parking Time Limited) Ordinance No. 2144 will establish the following: Stop Signs on Davidson Road at London Road northbound and southbound, Stop Sign on Hemlock Circle northbound at Canterbury Road (east intersection), Stop Sign on Hemlock Circle northbound at Canterbury Road (west intersection), Stop Signs on Mill Road at Moredon Road both directions, 3-way Stop Signs Sewell Lane at Cherry Lane, No Parking on the south side of Windsor Avenue from North Hills Avenue at 79 feet east of North Hills Avenue. Ordinance No. 2144 (attached) will repeal the following: Old York Road (old section) at Temple Beth Am - No Parking on Tuesday 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon.

PS4.  
(PS-100417-04)

Disposal of Unclaimed Confiscated Bicycles

Motion directing the Police Department to donate to the Bikes for Tykes Program, c/o Sussman Automotive, all unclaimed bicycles and bicycle parts which have been confiscated and are being held by the Department.



***PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE***

***BOARD ACTION REQUEST***

10/4/17

*DATE*

PS-100417-01

*AGENDA ITEM NUMBER*

Fire Department

*DEPARTMENT*

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Cost > \$10,000.

Yes

No

**PUBLIC BID REQUIRED**

Cost > \$19,700.

Yes

No

***AGENDA ITEM:***

Consider Proposed Ordinance 2143 Creating Tax Incentives for Members of the Abington Township Fire Department and Montgomery County Second Alarmers (EMS) and Motion to Advertise the New Ordinance.

***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:***

The Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington established by Ordinance 2143, a Tax Credit Program for the active volunteer members of the Abington Fire Company, McKinley Fire Company, Weldon Fire Company, Edge Hill Fire Company, Roslyn Fire Company and Second Alarmers Rescue Squad. A Volunteer Service Earned Income Tax Credit and Real Property Tax Credit provides incentives for qualifying volunteers serving a volunteer fire company or non-profit emergency medical services agency.

***PREVIOUS BOARD ACTIONS:***

None

***RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:***

Recommend proposed ordinance be advertised as listed above.

**ABINGTON TOWNSHIP**  
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

ORDINANCE #2143

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AMENDING CHAPTER 152 – “TAXATION” TO ADD ARTICLE VIII – “VOLUNTEER SERVICE CREDIT PROGRAM,” SECTIONS 82 THROUGH 91, ESTABLISHING A VOLUNTEER SERVICE CREDIT PROGRAM; ENACTING TAX CREDITS FOR VOLUNTEER MEMBERS OF VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES AND NONPROFIT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE AGENCIES; AND ESTABLISHING ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AND APPEALS**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Abington is a duly organized Township of the first class, existing and operating in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with the First Class Township Code of Pennsylvania, 53 P.S. §§55101, et. seq., the Township is vested with various corporate powers, including but not limited to the adoption and enactment of such ordinances and regulations necessary for the proper care, management, and control of the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recently enacted Act 172 of 2016, which provides municipalities with the option to offer a real estate and/or earned income tax credit to active members of volunteer fire companies and nonprofit emergency medical service agencies through a volunteer service credit program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township has determined that the public health, safety and welfare would benefit from the amendment of Chapter 152 – “Taxation,” to add Article VIII – “Volunteer Service Credit Program,” Sections 82 through 91, creating such a volunteer service credit program.

IT IS HEREBY ENACTED AND ORDAINED by the Township of Abington Board of

Commissioners as follows:

**SECTION 1. Amendment to Chapter 152 (Taxation) providing a new Article VIII (Volunteer Service Earned Income Tax Credit and Real Property Tax Credit).**

The Township's Code, Chapter 152 (Taxation) shall be amended to add a new Article VIII (Volunteer Service Earned Income Tax Credit and Real Property Tax credit), which shall read as follows:

**Article VIII  
Volunteer Service Earned Income Tax Credit and  
Real Property Tax Credit**

**§152-82. Scope and Purpose.**

- A. Scope. This Ordinance is related to Act 172 and its intended incentives for municipal volunteers of fire companies and nonprofit emergency medical services agencies.
  
- B. Purpose. The purpose of this Ordinance is to enact a tax credit against an active volunteer's tax liability as a financial incentive to (1) acknowledge the value and the absence of any public cost for volunteer fire protection and nonprofit emergency medical services provided by active volunteers; and (2) encourage individuals to volunteer, or for former volunteers to consider rejoining as active volunteers, in a township volunteer fire company or nonprofit emergency medical services agency.

**§152-83. Definitions**

The following words and phrases when used in this ordinance shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| "Active Volunteer."  | A volunteer for a volunteer fire company or nonprofit emergency medical service agency as indicated herein who has complied with, and is certified under, the Volunteer Service Credit Program as set forth herein. |
| "Commissioner."      | The State Fire Commissioner of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.  |
| "Earned Income Tax." | A tax on earned income and net profits levied under Chapter 3   |

of the Act of December 31, 1965 (P.L. 1257, No. 511), known as The Local Tax Enabling Act.

- “Eligibility Period.” The timeframe when volunteers may earn credit under the Volunteer Service Credit Program.
- “Emergency Responder.” A volunteer who responds to an emergency call with one of the volunteer fire companies or nonprofit emergency medical service agencies providing service in Abington Township.
- “Emergency Response Call.” Any emergency call to which a volunteer responds, including travel directly from and to a volunteer’s home, place of business or other place where he or she shall have been when the call was received.
- “Local Tax Enabling Act.” The Act of December 31, 1965 (P.L. 1257, No. 511), known as the Local Tax Enabling Act.
- “Qualified Real Property.” A residential real property owned and occupied as the domicile of an active volunteer.
- “Qualified Volunteer.” A township resident that has served as an active volunteer, in good standing, as so certified under this Ordinance, during the preceding calendar year, for a township volunteer fire company and/or a nonprofit emergency medical services agency.
- “Nonprofit emergency medical services agency.” An entity that is chartered as a nonprofit corporation and engages in the service of providing emergency medical services to patients within this Commonwealth by operating any of the following:
- (1) An ambulance.
  - (2) An advanced life support squad vehicle.
  - (3) A basic life support squad vehicle.
  - (4) A quick response service.
  - (5) A special operations EMS service. This paragraph includes, but is not limited to:
    - (i) a tactical EMS service;
    - (ii) a wilderness EMS service;
    - (iii) a mass-gathering EMS service; and
    - (iv) an urban search and rescue EMS service.
  - (6) A vehicle or service which provides emergency

medical services outside of a health care facility, as prescribed by the Department of Health by regulation.

“Tax Credit.” The Earned Income Tax credit and/or the Real Property Tax Credit granted hereunder.

“Township.” The Township of Abington, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

“Volunteer.” A member of a volunteer fire company or a nonprofit emergency medical service agency.

“Volunteer fire company.” A nonprofit chartered corporation, association or organization located in this Commonwealth that provides fire protection services and may offer other voluntary emergency services within the Township.

“Volunteer Service Credit Program.” The program established pursuant to this Chapter to determine the active status of a volunteer.

**§152-84. Volunteer Service Tax Credits.**

- A. Establishment. The Township of Abington hereby establishes a Volunteer Service Credit Program.
- B. Limitations. The tax credits established by this Ordinance may be used against the Qualified Volunteer’s tax liability for the current taxable year and every taxable year the individual is qualified as a Qualified Volunteer. The tax credits established by this Ordinance shall remain in effect unless and until the Township repeals this Ordinance.

**§152-85. Qualifying Volunteer.**

- A. Qualifying Volunteer Criteria. To be a Qualifying Volunteer under this Ordinance, an individual must (1) be a township resident; and (2) have served as an active volunteer, in good standing, as so certified under this Ordinance, during the preceding calendar year, for a township volunteer fire company and/or a nonprofit emergency medical services agency.
- B. Joint Tax Return. An Qualified Volunteer may claim a tax credit provided for in this Ordinance when filing a joint return. The tax return form shall provide a mechanism for separating the liability of an individual for any earned income tax imposed by the school district of residence from the liability of an individual for any earned income tax imposed by the Township. The tax credit shall only be applicable to the earned income tax imposed by the Township.

- C. Injured Active Volunteer. An active volunteer who was injured during a response to an emergency call and can no longer serve as an active volunteer because of the injury and who would otherwise be eligible for tax credits under this Ordinance shall be eligible for such tax credits for the succeeding five tax years. The injured active volunteer must submit a new application each year as set forth herein in order to qualify for the tax credits described herein.
- D. Eligibility Period. The eligibility period for the 2017 calendar year shall be from January 20<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. For 2018 and subsequent years, the eligibility period shall be from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year. An active volunteer must meet the minimum criteria, set by resolution of the Board of Commissioners, during the eligibility period to qualify for the tax credits established by this Ordinance.
- E. Recordkeeping. The chief of each volunteer fire company or the supervisor of the nonprofit emergency medical service agency, as applicable, shall keep specific records of each active volunteer's activities in a service log to establish credits under the Volunteer Service Credit Program. Service logs shall be subject to review by the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington, the State Fire Commissioner and the State Auditor General. The chief, or supervisor, as applicable, shall annually transmit to the Township Manager a notarized eligibility list of all volunteers that have met the minimum criteria for the Volunteer Service Credit Program. The notarized eligibility list shall be transmitted to the Township no later than January 7<sup>th</sup> of each year. The chief or supervisor, as applicable, shall post the notarized eligibility list in an accessible area of the volunteer agency's facilities.
- F. Eligibility List. A notarized list of eligible active volunteers shall be submitted to the governing body, no later than 45 days before tax notices are distributed, by the appropriate Chief of the township's five volunteer fire companies or the Township's nonprofit emergency medical services agency, as applicable.
- G. Criteria Revision. The Board of Commissioners reserves the right to revise the criteria for certification of a Qualifying Volunteer, by Resolution, in whole or in part, at its sole discretion.

**§152-86. Certification of Qualifying Volunteers.**

- A. To receive certification as a Qualifying Volunteer under this Ordinance, an individual must meet the Qualifying Volunteer criteria set forth by Resolution and, by January 15 of each year (following the year in which an individual has served as an active volunteer), sign and submit an Application for Certification as a Qualifying Volunteer to the Chief of



the volunteer fire company or nonprofit emergency medical services agency, as applicable.

- B. Thereafter, the Fire Company's Chief or the Township's Nonprofit emergency Medical Services Agency Chief, as applicable, shall review all applications submitted, sign each application, and indicate on each application whether he/she recommends the volunteer to be certified as a Qualifying Volunteer.
- C. By January 30 of the same year, the Fire Company's Chief or the Township's Nonprofit emergency medical Services Chief, as applicable, shall forward all applications received, with all supporting documentation, to the Board of Commissioners.
- D. The Board of Commissioners shall review all applications and supporting documentation and shall, by Board motion, certify all Qualifying Volunteers on or before March 1 of each year. Only those volunteers so certified by the Board of Commissioners shall be eligible to receive the earned income tax credit and/or the real property tax credit, and these credits may be utilized for any earned income taxes and/or real property taxes paid or payable to the Township during or for the previous calendar year only.
- E. Official Tax Credit Register. The Township shall keep an official Tax Credit Register of all Qualified Volunteers that were issued tax credit certificates. The Township Manager shall issue updates, as needed, of the official Tax Credit Register to the following:
  - 1. Township Board of Commissioners;
  - 2. Chief of the volunteer fire companies;
  - 3. Chief or supervisor of the nonprofit emergency medical service agency;
  - 4. Tax officer for the Township Tax Collection District.

#### **§ 152-87 – Earned Income Tax Credit**

- A. Tax Credit. Each Qualified Volunteer who has been certified under the Volunteer Service Credit Program shall be eligible to receive a tax credit of up to 20% of earned income tax credit per year, not to exceed \$1,000.00 of the of the Township portion of any Earned Income Tax levied by the Township. When an active volunteer's earned income tax liability is less than the amount of the tax credit, the tax credit shall equal the individual's tax liability.
- B. Claim. A Qualified Volunteer with a tax credit certificate may file a claim for the tax credit on their Township earned income tax liability when filing a final local return for the preceding calendar year.

C. Rejection of Tax Credit Claim.

1. The Township Tax Collector shall reject a claim for a tax credit if the taxpayer is not on the official Tax Credit Register issued by the Board of Commissioners.
2. If the Township Tax Collector rejects the claim, the taxpayer shall be notified in writing of the decision. The notice shall include the reasons for rejection and provide the method of appealing the decision pursuant to Section 89 hereof.
3. Taxpayers shall have 30 days to appeal the decision of the Township Tax Collector.

**§ 152-88 – Real Property Tax Credit**

- A. Tax Credit. Each Qualified Volunteer who has been certified under the Volunteer Service Credit Program shall be eligible to receive a real property tax credit of 20% of the Township tax liability on qualified real property. This tax credit shall not apply to any other tax liability imposed upon the qualified real property. If the tax is paid in the penalty period, the tax credit shall only apply to the base tax year liability.
- B. Claim. A Qualified Volunteer with a tax credit certificate may file a claim for the tax credit on their qualified real property tax liability for the Township's real estate tax levy. The tax credit shall be administered as a refund. The Qualified Volunteer shall file the following with the Township Manager or the Township Tax Collector:
  - i. A true and correct receipt from the Township real estate tax collector of the paid Township real property taxes for the tax year in which the claim is being filed.
  - ii. The tax credit certificate.
  - iii. Photo identification.
  - iv. Documentation that the tax paid was for qualified real property as defined in this Ordinance.
2. If the active volunteer provides all documents required under this subsection, the Township Treasurer shall issue the tax refund to the active volunteer.

C. Rejection of the Tax Credit Claim.

1. The Township Tax Collector shall reject the claim for a Township real property tax credit if the taxpayer fails to provide the documents required under Subsection (B).
2. If the Township Tax Collector rejects the claim, the taxpayer shall be notified in writing of the decision. The notice shall include the reasons for the rejection and

provide the method of appealing the decision pursuant to Section 86 hereof.

3. Taxpayers shall have 30 days to appeal the decision of the Township Tax Collector.

#### **§152-89. Appeal.**

##### **A. Earned Income Tax Credit Appeals.**

1. Any taxpayer aggrieved by a decision under Section 87 hereof shall have a right to appeal said decision.
2. A taxpayer shall have 30 days to appeal a decision or rejection of claim.
3. All appeals of decisions under Section 87 hereof shall follow the provisions of the Act of May 5, 1998, P.L. 301, No. 50, known as the Local Taxpayers Bill of Rights.

##### **B. Real Property Tax Credit Appeals.**

1. Any taxpayer aggrieved by a decision under Section 88 hereof shall have a right to appeal said decision. A taxpayer shall have 30 days to appeal a decision or rejection of claim.
2. All appeals under Section 88 hereof shall follow the provisions of 2 Pa.C.S. Chapter 5, Subchapter B (relating to practice and procedure of local agencies), and 2 Pa.C.S. Chapter 7, Subchapter B (relating to judicial review of local agency action), also known as the "Local Agency Law."

#### **§152-90. Exemption Certificate.**

Within 10 days of the Board of Commissioners decision certifying Qualifying Volunteers, the Township Secretary shall issue a Qualifying Volunteer Exemption Certificate to each Qualifying Volunteer, in a form acceptable to the Tax Collector appointed by the Montgomery County Tax Collection Committee to collect the earned income tax and the Township's Tax Collector elected to collect the township's real property tax.

#### **§152-91. False Reporting Penalty.**

- A. Any person who knowingly makes, or conspires to make, a false Application for Certification as a Qualifying Volunteer commits a misdemeanor of the first degree punishable by a fine of \$2,500.

- B. Any person who knowingly provides, or conspires to provide, a false Certification Recommendation under this Ordinance commits a misdemeanor of the first degree punishable by a fine of \$2,500.

**SECTION 2. Repeal and Ratification.**

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith or in conflict with any of the specific terms enacted hereby, to the extent of said inconsistencies or conflicts, are hereby specifically repealed. Any other terms and provisions of the Township's Code unaffected by this Ordinance are hereby reaffirmed and ratified.

**SECTION 3. Severability**

Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase in this Ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and affect, and for this reason the provisions of this Ordinance shall be severable.

**SECTION 4. Effective date.**

This Ordinance shall become effective 5 days after enactment.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2017, by the Board of Commissioners of Abington Township, Montgomery County, PA.

ABINGTON TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

(Seal)

Attested by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard J. Manfredi, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne Luker, President



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**BOARD ACTION REQUEST**

10/4/17

PS-100417-02

DATE

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER

Police Department

DEPARTMENT

FISCAL IMPACT

Cost > \$10,000.

Yes

No

PUBLIC BID REQUIRED

Cost > \$19,700.

Yes

No

**AGENDA ITEM:**

Resolution # 17-022 Sobriety Checkpoint Grant

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

This will be the sixteenth year of funding for the Eastern Montgomery County DUI Task Force. The Task Force consist of 7 Police Departments; Abington, Cheltenham, Lower Moreland, Springfield, Upper Dublin, Upper Moreland, and Whitemarsh. The grant covers funding of Sobriety Checkpoints and Roving Patrols. This is a reimbursable grant that will cover the period from October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018. The Township's match will cover the Social Security cost of the officers working the grant as this expense is not covered by the grant. At the conclusion of the grant the social security expense will be transferred to 01-04-044-5110

**PREVIOUS BOARD ACTIONS:**

The Board has previously accepted Sobriety Checkpoint Grants from the Bureau of Highway Safety and Traffic Engineering.

**RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:**

Motion to authorize Township officials to accept a grant award from the Bureau of Highway Safety and Traffic Engineering in the amount of \$55,000.00 with the Township's matching portion approximately \$480.00.

RESOLUTION 17-022

BE IT RESOLVED, by authority of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington, Montgomery County, and it is hereby resolved by authority of the same, that the President, Board of Commissioners of said Municipality be authorized and directed to sign the attached grant on its behalf.

ATTEST

Abington Township

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard J. Manfredi  
Secretary

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne Luker  
President,  
Board of Commissioners

(SEAL)

I, Wayne Luker, President, Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Abington Township held the 12<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2017.

DATE: October 12, 2017

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne Luker  
President,  
Board of Commissioners

Cover Page

**Applicant Agency** ABINGTON TOWNSHIP (46101)  
**Project Title** Eastern Montgomery County DUI Taskforce  
**Sponsoring Grant Agency (if applicable)**  
**Person who prepared this application** Jack Murphy  
**SAP Billing Code** 000

Please describe the project or task force in general and the success or results or previous grants. Provide information on the population and demographics or the area involved in the project, etc.

Also explain partnerships within the task force or project (i.e., working with PSP and other local departments.) In addition, provide information on the training experiences and needs in SFST and PennDOT checkpoint training.

The Abington Township Police Department in a collaborative effort with the police departments in Cheltenham, Lower Moreland, Springfield, Whitemarsh, Upper Dublin and Upper Moreland respectfully submit this proposal for continued funding from the Department of Transportation's Highway Safety Program to support our Sobriety Checkpoint Program. These seven departments make up the Eastern Montgomery County DUI Taskforce.

The police jurisdictions making up the taskforce service a population of 192,225 who live in a 73square mile area, with a total of approximately 320 police officers. That's equals to approximately 601 residents per police officer not including the vast number of transients that traverse the 150 miles of state highways in these areas every day.

The taskforce also works closely with other agencies. Whenever possible a DRE Officer from either the Pennsylvania State Police or an Officer from Upper Moreland PD will attend the checkpoint. The local fire departments supply a light truck for the checkpoints and a core group of volunteers from the Abington Citizens Police Academy help with the paperwork allowing the officers to return to the line faster.

At each checkpoint the host department provides at least one

**ProjectDescription continued**

additional officer at their expense with most departments supplying more than one.

All Officers attending the checkpoints are required to receive the standard checkpoint training with an up-date every two years. Officers working in the test area are required to have SFST training. As a result, in the 7 departments making up the taskforce, there are 88 Officers currently trained in checkpoint procedures and 79 trained in SFST procedures. In addition there are 12 Officers with ADIDE training and 1 officer that is DRE certificated.



### PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

Please describe the impaired driving-related highway safety problems in the communities or areas under the project jurisdiction. Reveal the problem through examples of PennDOT supplied crash data as well as local crash enforcement data. It is important to identify roadways with a high number of alcohol-related crashes and incidents.

In 2016 Pennsylvania reported 10,256 alcohol related crashes, a decrease from 2015 (10,558). Of these accidents 63.5% were between 2000 and 0400 hours and 44% were on Friday and Saturday. Pa also reported holiday accidents in 2016 at 2,079. This is an increase of 69 over last year. Of these 2,079, 38% were around Thanksgiving and Independence Day.

Montgomery County is on the list of top 10 Counties with the most reported traffic crashes and the most traffic related fatalities. In 2016 Montgomery County ranked 11th out of 67 counties in Pennsylvania for alcohol related deaths (9). This is an increase of 66% over last year (6).

In the area served by the Taskforce, the past 2 years show, 4 roadways have been identified with a high number of alcohol related crashes & DUI arrests. They are Ridge Pike in Whitemarsh Twp.(6 accidents and 17 DUI arrests), SR 611 in Abington, Cheltenham, and Upper Moreland Twps.(27 accidents with 48 DUI arrests), SR2009 in Lower Moreland Twp. (1 accidents with 46 DUI arrests), and SR2018 in Upper Dublin & Springfield Twps.(13 accidents with 55 DUI arrest). These numbers show

ProblemIdentification continued

about a 5% decrease in the previous two years. This number is consistent with our goals.

### PROGRAM GOALS

Please provide the goal(s) of the project as well as the program objectives. The goal(s) should be a general end result for the project. Some examples of program goals are: "reduce impaired driving crashes", "increase seat belt usage", or "decrease aggressive driving crashes". Objectives measure the success of the program. They are specific targets that are measurable and attainable in a given period of time. Some examples of program objectives are: "to increase contacts by 10%", "to reduce impaired driving related crashes by 8%", or "to increase the seat belt rate 4%".

Goal: Reducing Impaired (DUI) Driving

#### Objectives for this goal

1. To implement a sobriety checkpoint program utilizing the DUI Law Enforcement Manual compiled by PennDOT and the DUI LELs, to reduce the number of alcohol related accidents in the regional area.
2. To deter DUI activity by creating the perception that there is an increased likelihood that DUI violators will be arrested in the regional area.
3. To strengthen the existing relationship with the participating jurisdictions creating a long-term commitment to proactive collaboration in the future.
4. To target roadways that has been identified through crash and arrest data analysis as DUI problem roadways. Specifically Ridge Pike, Bethlehem Pike, Route 611, Byberry Road, SR309, Philmont Ave, and Huntingdon Pike.
5. Use Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and local statistical information on alcohol related crashes and arrests to determine number and location of checkpoints needed to reduce alcohol related crashes by 5%.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

Use this section to provide any necessary explanations of the proposed budget (i.e., if there are multiple coordinators or equipment needs.)

Our budget includes funding for 9 checkpoints, 8 roving patrols, attendance at the annual conference, and equipment purchase and maintenance.

## Coordinator

78 / hour X 54 Hours = \$4212

Assistant Coordinator (administration)

\$41/ hr. X 48 hours = \$1968

## Checkpoints

\$70 / hour X 5 hours X 14 officers X 9 events = \$44,100

## Roving Patrols

\$70 / hour X 5 hours X 1 officer X 8 events = \$2,800

## Equipment

Clean up & Maintenance = \$148

Lighting = \$700

Evidence & property container = \$52

Mouthpieces = \$100

**Narrative continued**

Safety Vests = \$220

Conference

3 officers = \$700

Total      \$ 55,000



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**BOARD ACTION REQUEST**

10/4/17

DATE

Police Department

DEPARTMENT

PS-100417-03

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Cost > \$10,000.

Yes

No

**PUBLIC BID REQUIRED**

Cost > \$19,700.

Yes

No

**AGENDA ITEM:**

Adopt Ordinance No. 2144

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Ordinance No. 2144 will establish the following:

Stop Signs on Davidson Road at London Road northbound and southbound, Stop Sign on Hemlock Circle northbound at Canterbury Road (east intersection), Stop Sign on Hemlock Circle northbound at Canterbury Road (west intersection), Stop Signs on Mill Road at Moredon Road both directions, 3-way Stop Signs Sewell Lane at Cherry Lane, No Parking on the south side of Windsor Avenue from North Hills Avenue at 79 feet east of North Hills Avenue.

Ordinance No. 2144 (attached) will repeal the following: Old York Road (old section) at Temple Beth Am - No Parking on Tuesday 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon

**PREVIOUS BOARD ACTIONS:**

**RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:**

Motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2144 amending Chapter 156 (Vehicles and Traffic) Article II (Traffic Regulations) Section 14 (Stop Intersections); Article III (Parking Regulations) Section 25 (Parking Prohibited At All Times; No Parking Between Signs; No Parking Here To Corner; Parking Prohibited Except Certain Hours; No Stopping Or Standing) and Section 27 (Parking Time Limited)

**TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2144**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 156 – “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC,”  
ARTICLE II – “TRAFFIC REGULATIONS”  
SECTION 14 – “STOP INTERSECTIONS”  
ARTICLE III – “PARKING REGULATIONS”  
SECTION 25 – “PARKING PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES; NO PARKING BETWEEN  
SIGNS; NO PARKING HERE TO CORNER; PARKING PROHIBITED EXCEPT  
CERTAIN HOURS; NO STOPPING OR STANDING” AND  
SECTION 27 – “PARKING TIME LIMITED”**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of Abington is a Township of the First Class, duly organized and existing pursuant to the applicable laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to section 1502.44 of the First Class Township Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 53 P.S. §56544, the Board of Commissioners has the authority to enact and amend provisions of the Abington Township Code (“Code”) at any time it deems necessary for the health, safety, morals, general welfare, cleanliness, beauty, convenience and comfort of the Township and the inhabitants thereof; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to section 1502.10 of the First Class Township Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 53 P.S. §56510, the Board of Commissioners has the authority to take all needful means for securing the safety of persons or property within the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to section 1502.49 of the First Class Township Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 53 P.S. §56549, the Board of Commissioners has the authority to regulate parking; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington has determined that Chapter 156 – “Vehicles and Traffic,” Article II – “Traffic Regulations,” Section 14 “Stop Intersections,” and Article III – “Parking Regulations,” Section 25 “Parking Prohibited At All Times; No Parking Between Signs; No Parking Here To Corner; Parking Prohibited Except Certain Hours; No Stopping Or Standing,” and Section 27 “Parking Time Limited” should be amended for the health, safety, morals, general welfare, cleanliness, beauty, convenience and comfort of the Township and the inhabitants thereof.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington does hereby **ENACT** and **ORDAIN** as follows:

- Chapter 156 – “Vehicles and Traffic,” Article II, “Traffic Regulations,” Section 14 – “Stop Intersections,” shall be amended to **add** the following restriction:

<b>Stop Sign On</b>	<b>Direction of Travel</b>	<b>At Intersection of</b>
Davidson Road	Both	London Road
Hemlock Circle	North	Canterbury Road (east)
Hemlock Circle	North	Canterbury Road (west)
Mill Road	Both	Moredon Road
Sewell Lane	3-way	Cherry Lane

- Chapter 156 – “Vehicles and Traffic,” Article III, “Parking Regulations,” Section 25 – “Parking Prohibited At All Times; No Parking Between Signs; No Parking Here To Corner; Parking Prohibited Except Certain Hours,” shall be amended to **add** the following restrictions:



Name of Highway	Side	Location
Windsor Avenue	South	from North Hills Avenue to 79 feet east of North Hills Avenue

3. Chapter 156 – “Vehicles and Traffic,” Article III, “Parking Regulations,” Section 27 – “Parking Time Limited” shall be amended to **repeal** the following restriction:

**Name of Highway**

Old York Road (old section) [Added 10/14/1976 Ord No 1431]	at Temple Beth Am – No Parking on Tuesday – 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon
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4. All other ordinances, portions of ordinances, or any section of the Code inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.
5. This Ordinance shall become effective five (5) days after enactment.

**ORDAINED AND ENACTED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

TOWNSHIP OF ABINGTON  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard J. Manfredi, Secretary

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne C. Luker, President



**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**BOARD ACTION REQUEST**

10/4/17

DATE

Police Department

DEPARTMENT

PS-100417-04

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Cost > \$10,000.

Yes  No

**PUBLIC BID REQUIRED**

Cost > \$19,700.

Yes  No

**AGENDA ITEM:**

Disposal of Unclaimed Confiscated Bicycles

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Per Abington Township Police Department Policy 84.1.7- Bicycles that are found property, and whose owner cannot be located, will periodically be disposed of by a donation to a non-profit organization. The Sussman Automotive Group began a charitable program called Bikes for Tykes that accepts donated bikes, repairing them and giving them to needy children. Presently, there are twenty-one bicycles that fit the criteria for donation to the Sussman Automotive Group.

**PREVIOUS BOARD ACTIONS:**

At the June 1990 Commissioners Meeting, the Board authorized, by motion, the Police Department to dispose of unclaimed bicycles and bicycle parts which had been confiscated by the Department by donating them. This directive was carried out and periodically through the years, subsequent Board motions authorized the Department to dispose of additional bikes in the same matter.

**RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:**

Motion directing the Police Department to donate to the Bikes for Tykes Program, c/o Sussman Automotive, all unclaimed bicycles and bicycle parts which have been confiscated and are being held by the Department.



## ABINGTON TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

TO: Chief John Livingood  
FROM: Robert Sands  
DATE: September 20, 2017  
SUBJECT: Found / Stored Bicycles

The following bicycles have been stored by the Abington Township Police Department. Additionally, these bicycles have met the criteria for donation to the Sussman Organization.

### CASE NUMBER

### DESCRIPTION

#### 2016

1. 16-31265 Pink Razor (204) 2050827071 GS080822626
2. 16-38072 Black Carrera (205) VH90939105
3. 16-40145 Red Schwinn (206) CSC3A1289
4. 16-41448 Neon Chaos (207) WMGS0M603410316
5. 16-41638 Silver Haro (208) F3W3F2144
6. 16-47528 Blue Haro (209) K10EY00321
7. 16-48642 Black Diamondback (210) B005326

#### 2017

8. 17-00203 Purple Huffy (211) 36311K
9. 17-01400 Schwinn Stingray (212) SNGSP84K67283
10. 17-11973 Purple Ralle (213) A3146D76645
11. 17-14872 White Haro (214) KBH0003720
12. 17-15210 Silver Aero (215) 1BDSFD1340320

13. 17-15708 Blue Mongoose (216) SNSFD11K872
14. 17-17539 Red White BMX (217) LWJE452366
15. 17-22125 Black White Twenty Nine (218) DJFB020373
16. 17-24945 Black Next (219) Cs120704066
17. 17-29661 Blue Huffy (220) 26527-9128723H9475
18. 17-31251 Blue Trek (221) 1TK2B08892
19. 17-31728 Red Specialized (222) WSBC606068951
20. 17-34987 Yellow Mongoose (223) SNSFD001F58064
21. 17-35141 Red Mongoose (224) SNSFD09DC582

The stated meeting of the Public Safety Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Wednesday, September 6, 2017 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Schreiber presiding.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:13 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Commissioners SCHREIBER, DiPLACIDO, BOWMAN, SPIEGELMAN, KALINOSKI

Township Manager MANFREDI  
Assistant Township Manager WEHMEYER  
Township Solicitor CLARKE  
Chief of Police LIVINGOOD

Also Present: LUKER, KLINE, HECKER, FARREN, MYERS, ROTHMAN, SANCHEZ, ZAPPONE, GILLESPIE, BRODSKY

**MINUTES:** Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2017 Public Safety Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Commissioner Schreiber noted that regarding Item PS1; street names will be included in this type of motion going forward although they are now available for public viewing.

Police Department Report:

Chief Livingood noted that Item PS1 is a compilation of a number of traffic matters and this will be the first of the department's quarterly submissions of ordinances as previously explained to the Board.

Ordinance No. 2140 – To Amend Chapter 156 “Vehicles and Traffic” Article II “Traffic Regulations” Section 10 “U-Turns and Section 14 “Stop Intersections” and Article III “Parking Regulations” Section 25 “Parking Prohibited At All Times; No Parking Between Signs; No Parking Here To Corner; Parking Prohibited Except Certain Hours; No Stopping Or Standing” and Section 28 “Special Purpose Parking Zones”

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to adopt Ordinance No 2140 amending Chapter 156 “Vehicles and Traffic” Article II “Traffic Regulations” Section 10 “U-Turns and Section 14 “Stop Intersections” and Article III “Parking Regulations” Section 25 “Parking Prohibited At All Times; No Parking Between Signs; No Parking Here To Corner; Parking Prohibited Except Certain Hours; No Stopping Or Standing” and Section 28 “Special Purpose Parking Zones” at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners on September 14, 2017.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Kline said if this will be done quarterly, will these regulations still be implemented or does it need to wait until the ordinance is passed?

Chief Livingood replied legally, the ordinance needs to be passed first. Anything that is a property safety matter will be put through as it was previously done; however, routine traffic matters will be done quarterly. The next ordinance will be in December as there are no committee meetings in January.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, asked for the street names listed in the motion to be read aloud by the Public Safety Chairperson, Commissioner Schreiber going forward.

Commissioner Kalinoski questioned whether there will be circumstances that a traffic matter would be put through sooner.

Chief Livingood replied absolutely. Any immediate traffic safety issues will be put through at the next meeting and any others waiting for the quarterly will be put with that one.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Continuation of Automated Red Light Enforcement Systems (ARLE) Program

Lt. Warner gave a power point presentation on the Abington Township Red Light Camera Program to the Board. Goal of the program is to reduce violations, crashes, crashes with injuries and fatalities. Locations of red light cameras are: Old York/Susquehanna Roads; Old Welsh/Old York Roads and Moreland/Fitzwatertown Roads, which have the highest number of crashes and are difficult to enforce by traditional methods. 82% are non-residents who commit violations. Pre-camera program; there were 136 total crashes, and after-camera program; there were 106 crashes, although there was an increase in violations in the third year from 10/16-7/17. Also, there was a technology upgrade to the cameras. Total reimbursed for administrative and overhead costs since 2013 was \$177,159 and zero cost to the taxpayers.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Spiegelman asked for the status of Township staff working with Gatso in the past two years.

Lt. Warner replied they have been very helpful and worked well with the department and Township staff. Andrew Noble of Gatso is here this evening to answer any questions.

Commissioner Spiegelman said Abington Police Department is able to enact this program because the department meets certification and accreditation criteria, but what about a radar speed enforcement program for Abington Township?

Lt. Warner replied that is held up in legislation. As of now, local law enforcement is not allowed to use radar for enforcement of speed and only permitted for State Police.

Commissioner DiPlacido asked has there been any significant increase in costs with the technology upgrade?

Lt. Warner replied no, not at this point. Based on the contract with Gatso, the agreement is that if there was any advancement in technology, there would be no additional costs to the Township during the length of the contract.

Commissioner DiPlacido asked has Gatso made a profit yet?

Andrew Noble, representative of Gatso USA, replied the program as a whole still owes us \$335,614.00, but the technology upgrade made a significant difference in two areas; tracking radar more accurately and an infrared flash was added for a third image allowing for better plate recognition during nighttime.

Commissioner DiPlacido clarified that after two years Gatso made no profit, but did so after four years? Is that correct?

Mr. Noble replied we hope so, yes.

Commissioner Kalinoski said there has been an up tick in violations; is that a pattern in other municipalities that use red light cameras?

Mr. Noble replied typically once a new program is put in place, after approximately six months, violations dropped to about 40% of where they were when they started the program. This increase is purely attributable to the technology added.

Commissioner Kalinoski questioned whether signage will be changed at the red light camera intersections.

Lt. Warner replied yes. If this moves forward, the department will do another blast education piece to commuters and residents about the red light camera program.

Commissioner Bowman commented that he has not received any complaints from residents in his ward and he likes the numbers in the presentation. Also, this program was implemented due to the size of our Township. Is that correct?

Lt. Warner replied she believes so.

Commissioner Kline said at some point even with the technology upgrade, there will be a decline in violations. Is that correct?

Mr. Noble replied he does not believe that will be the case because traffic patterns have not changed and signage is as it was before, and 2% of the violators are from out of town. Technology upgrade captures better images.

Commissioner Kline questioned whether this upgrade in technology is in other communities.

Mr. Noble replied yes.

Commissioner Kline said it was just mentioned that Gatso is seeing a decrease in violations by 40% over a period of time

Mr. Noble replied when the program first began in Abington Township, there were reductions during the first six or seven months in 2014/2015, but now it has gone up because the technology is capturing more violations that were not captured previously.



Commissioner Kline said last payment to Gatso was for the month of May, 2016, so the Township is over a year behind in paying Gatso the full amount of \$42,000 a month. He is still opposed to the program and does not understand why it is a three-year contract. He would rather see a zero contract. This was billed as a program to be a trendsetter in the State of Pennsylvania and we ended up being the only municipality other than the City of Philadelphia to have red light cameras. No other municipality in the State of Pennsylvania even knows they are eligible to have red light cameras and being pulled over by a police officer is more of a deterrent than getting a \$100 ticket including points in the mail.

Lt. Warner commented that reps of the City of Chester are coming to the Township this Friday inquiring about Abington Township's red light camera program.

Commissioner DiPlacido questioned whether 82% of nonresidents who commit violations include other zip codes such as Elkins Park, Jenkintown, etc.

Lt. Warner replied yes.

Commissioner Hecker questioned whether there has been statistical analysis of crashes pre and post program to see if there was a significant difference, and is there data on repeat offenders?

Lt. Warner replied she will report back on data of repeat offenders; however, we have not done a statistical analysis on crashes, but we can get that information.

Commissioner Schreiber questioned whether those who receive citations in the mail are repeat offenders.

Lt. Warner replied we don't have a lot of multiple offenders, but there are some.

Commissioner Gillespie commented that it is difficult for police officers to do enforcement as there is nowhere to park at these three intersections. Is that correct?

Lt. Warner replied that is correct.

Commissioner Myers said she has been in favor of the red light camera program. She has found that at these intersections, she is a more conscientious driver because when you get to the light and it is yellow you have a split second to decide to stop or go, now she stops, and she feels that makes a difference. Also, she cannot imagine that this has not helped with pedestrian safety at these intersections.

Commissioner Schreiber made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Spiegelman to adopt Ordinance No. 2142, an ordinance amending Chapter 155 "Traffic Control" Article I (Automated Light Enforcement Systems) Section 155-17 (Expiration).

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any other comments from Commissioners. There were none.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, recommended looking at historic fluctuations from other intersections comparing them to the red light camera fluctuations. She asked about getting a ticket if the vehicle is partially in the intersection when the light turns red, and she suggested asking PennDOT for extended time of yellow lights

Officer Posey replied if the vehicle is behind the stop bar and the light is red and the vehicle proceeds through the intersection that is a violation. The signage is governed by PennDOT. We have put message bars out for drivers and it is also posted on the Township television channel as well as we have informed reps of Penn State, Abington Hospital, Willow Grove Mall and District Courts. PennDOT also governs timing of the yellow lights.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-1. Commissioner DiPlacido opposed.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Schreiber noted that as previously discussed and considered by the Board of Commissioners, the Volunteer Firefighter Tax Credit is tentatively scheduled for the Wednesday, October 4, 2017 Committee Meeting to provide the Fire Companies appropriate time to finalize recommendations.

Commissioner Schreiber asked for any general comments relating to Public Safety.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, expressed concern that she feels there is a "lack of code enforcement" and she feels "not all crimes are investigated."

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Manfredi, Township Manager/Secretary

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