NEWBERRY TOWNSHIP, YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-20

A RESOLUTION OF NEWBERRY TOWNSHIP, YORK COUNTY ADOPTING A SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY AND DISCLAIMER FOR OFFICIAL TOWNSHIP COMMUNICATIONS

WHEREAS, Newberry Township (the "Township") is a township organized and existing under the Second Class Township Code, as amended, 53 P.S. §§ 65101 et seq. (the "Act"); and

WHEREAS, Newberry Township recognizes the increasing importance of digital communication, including through social media platforms, for promoting transparency, accessibility, and civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to ensure that the use of social media by Township departments, officials, and personnel is conducted in a consistent, respectful, and lawful manner; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Township to adopt a formal Social Media Policy and Disclaimer to guide the administration, moderation, and public interaction on Township-operated digital platforms;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, and it is hereby resolved as follows:

- **SECTION 1.** The Township hereby adopts the Social Media Policy and Disclaimer, attached hereto and incorporated by reference, as the official policy governing the use of social media by all Township departments, agencies, and authorized personnel.
- **SECTION 2.** The Social Media Policy and Disclaimer shall apply to all Township-operated websites, social media accounts, and digital communication channels, and shall guide both internal conduct and public engagement.
- **SECTION 3**. The Township Manager shall oversee the implementation and enforcement of the Social Media Policy and ensure that it is distributed to all relevant departments and officials.

SECTION 4. The Township reserves the right to revise the Social Media Policy and Disclaimer as needed, by Resolution of the Board of Supervisors.

SECTION 5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

RESOLVED this 22 day of April 2025.

ATTEST:

Jane Deamer, Assistant Secretary

NEWBERRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUBERVISORS

Diane Shellenhamer, Vice Chairman

CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned, Assistant Secretary of the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Newberry, York County, Pennsylvania (the "Township"), certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the Township which was duly enacted by ______ to _____ affirmative vote majority of the members of the Board of Supervisors of the Township, at a regular meeting held on April 22, 2025, that said Resolution has been recorded in the Resolution Book of the Township; that said Resolution was duly published as required by law; and that said Resolution remains in effect, unaltered and unamended as of the date of this Certificate.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I set my hand and affix the official seal of the Township on this 22nd day of April 2025.

Jane Deamer, Assistant Secretary

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1915 Old Trail Road, Etters, PA 17319

Phone: (717)938-6992 Fax: (717)938-0421 Website: <u>www.newberrytwp.com</u>

Social Media Policy and Disclaimer

Newberry Township government agencies and government officials engage with residents through many online channels, including our official website, agency pages, and social media. We encourage the public to engage with Newberry through these channels and welcome all viewpoints. Please be aware that when engaging with Newberry over social media, you are agreeing to the following.

Terms and Conditions

Newberry Township's government social media pages are located within platforms such as Facebook and Twitter that have their own terms of services, privacy policies, and other rules to which users are subject when users visit those pages.

User-generated Content

Newberry Township monitors its government social media pages but is not responsible for content generated by users on those platforms. Comments and other content posted on those platforms may be subject to public disclosure.

Newberry's individual social media pages also contain their own commenting policy statements and provisos which users are presumed to have read and understand in their use of the channels.

Comment Policy

We encourage the public to comment on our social media pages and welcome all viewpoints. Comments should remain relevant to the topic at hand and participants must treat each other with respect.

We review the comments posted to our social media pages on a regular basis and reserve the right to delete comments that contain the following:

- Profane and/or vulgar content;
- Sexually suggestive or harassing content;
- Obscene content;
- Nudity in a participant's profile picture;
- Threats of physical or bodily harm;
- Defamatory statements;
- Disparaging language or hate speech targeting an individual's race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, AIDS or HIV status, or disability;
- Commercial content promoting or soliciting services or products;
- Content promoting political organizations;

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- Name-calling and/or personal attacks;

- Spam, such as the same comment posted repeatedly;
- Personally identifying, sensitive and/or private information;
- Language or content suggesting or encouraging illegal activity;
- Information that could reasonably compromise public safety; and
- Other content that Newberry Township deems inappropriate.

Communications posted on our social media pages will not be construed as satisfying requirements for legal notice or service, shall not be considered official public comment, and shall not be construed as an official request for records pursuant to the Right-to-Know Law.

We reserve the right to modify this policy at any time. Continued use of our social media pages following the posting of any modification signifies acceptance of such modification.

Contacting Newberry Township

Social media is not considered an official channel for contacting Newberry Township agencies and officials. While Newberry at times responds to queries and comments on social media, staffing for that purpose is not 24/7. Newberry encourages users to follow instructions on how to officially contact township offices found on our website.

Communications posted on Newberry's social media pages will not be construed as satisfying requirements for legal notice or service, shall not be considered official public comment, and shall not be construed as an official request for records pursuant to the Right-to-Know Law.

Intellectual Property

Newberry Township does not claim ownership of content users submit or make available on our social media pages. We only claim rights in what we write, post, or otherwise share.

We have intellectual property interests in everything we post or otherwise share (even though some of it may have come from other sources); our intellectual property is not in the public domain unless we specifically say so. In other words, if users want to use a logo, a video, a document, etc., users need to get our legal permission.

Links

Newberry Township sometimes posts links to other public and/or private organizations on social media. A link does not constitute an endorsement of the content, viewpoint, policies, products, or services of that website. Once a user clicks a link to another website not maintained by Newberry, the user is subject to the terms and conditions of that website.

Adoption

This **Social Media Policy and Disclaimer** is hereby adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Newberry Township on the <u>22</u> day of April, 2025, by **Resolution No. 2025-20**, and shall take effect immediately upon adoption.