

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

ORDINANCE NO. 274

An ordinance establishing a policy and systems for the naming of streets and the numbering of property in the unincorporated area of Multnomah County; providing procedures for the naming of new streets and the renaming of existing streets; establishing standards for street name signs and property number identification; establishing administrative responsibilities; amending Ordinance No. 100 relating to the renaming of public thoroughfares.

Multnomah County ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

- (A) The currently utilized street naming and property numbering systems in unincorporated Multnomah County and the methods for addition or modification of names or numbers have not been formally adopted.
- (B) There is a need to further the implementation of the Multnomah County Comprehensive Plan, particularly policies No. 4 Intergovernmental Coordination, No. 7 Urban Land Area, No. 18 Community Identity, No. 22 Energy Conservation and No. 33 Transportation System, by establishing uniform means for the naming of streets and the numbering of property.
- (C) The efficient development of urban area lands, as envisioned under the Comprehensive Plan, is accompanied by the creation of new public and private streets and the need for the numbering of new buildings which may not always fit the current naming and numbering system.
- (D) An illogical or inconsistent street naming or property numbering system can lead to substantial inconvenience for citizens, to inefficient delivery of services, to waste in the consumption of energy and to serious delays or losses in cases of emergency.
- (E) The current route and box numbering system for rural area properties is inadequate as a means to locate property and to provide needed services and protection.
- (F) It is appropriate to retain, restore and extend the pattern of names of historical or geographical significance for rural area streets to aid in distinguishing rural area character outside the urban growth boundary from urban and urbanizing character inside the boundary.
- (G) It is necessary and appropriate that an ordinance be adopted which provides for the systematic naming of streets, the numbering of property and procedures for modifications thereof.

- (H) Oregon Revised Statutes, Chapter 215.110, provides that the Planning Commission may recommend and the Board may adopt ordinances intended to implement all or part of the Comprehensive Plan, including the renaming of public thoroughfares and the numbering of property.
- (I) The Planning Commission has adopted Resolution PC 15-81, recommending Board enactment of draft Ordinance No. PC 15-81 to establish a street naming and property numbering system for unincorporated Multnomah County.

## SECTION 2. STREET NAMING AND PROPERTY NUMBERING.

### 2.010 Definitions.

- (A) Words and their derivations used in this ordinance shall have the meanings given in the Multnomah County Code and in Ordinance No. 100.
- (B) "Director" means the Director of the Department of Environmental Services or the Director's authorized delegate.

### 2.015 Policy and Purpose. In order to provide a uniform street naming and property numbering system of benefit to all the citizens of the County, it is the policy of Multnomah County to extend the property numbering system established by the City of Portland to all unincorporated areas, to extend the street naming pattern established by the City of Portland to all urban unincorporated areas inside the urban growth boundary and to retain, restore and extend the historical road-naming system for all rural County areas.

### 2.020 Scope. The provisions of this ordinance shall apply to the naming of streets and the numbering of property in the unincorporated area of Multnomah County.

### 2.030 Directional Designations; Urban Area. For the purpose of this ordinance, the urban area of Multnomah County is hereby divided into five sections having the directional designations, abbreviations and dividing lines as listed herein. The name or number of a public or private street within a section shall be preceded by the abbreviated directional designation of that section. The five sections are:

- (A) "North", abbreviated "N.", consisting of the area between N. Williams Avenue and its northerly extension and the Willamette River Channel from the Burnside Bridge to the river mouth;
- (B) "Northeast", abbreviated "N.E.", consisting of the area east of N. Williams Avenue and its northerly extension and north of E. Burnside Street and its easterly extension;
- (C) "Northwest", abbreviated "N.W.", consisting of the area between the Willamette River Channel downstream from the Burnside Bridge and W. Burnside Road;

- (D) "Southeast", abbreviated "S.E.", consisting of the area south of E. Burnside Street and its easterly extension and east of the Willamette River Channel; and
- (E) "Southwest", abbreviated "S.W.", consisting of the area west of the Willamette River Channel and south of W. Burnside Road.

2.040 Street Naming and Property Numbering Grid. A street naming and property numbering grid is hereby established.

- (A) The grid shall consist of parallel lines spaced 264 feet apart and centered as follows:
  - (1) the north-south center gridline shall be N. Williams Avenue and its northerly and southerly extension; and
  - (2) the east-west center gridline shall be W. Burnside Road and E. Burnside Street and its easterly extension.
- (B) For urban area streets there shall be twenty names or numbers provided per mile, centered on the gridlines.
- (C) For urban and rural area property numbering there shall be one hundred numbers provided between each two gridlines. Except as provided in subpart 2.120(B), the numbers shall start with the number "1" at the center gridlines described in subpart (A) of this subsection, and continue in consecutive hundreds at each gridline.

2.050 North-South Street Numbering System; Urban Area. A north-south street numbering system is hereby established for the urban area.

- (A) An urban area street having an alignment generally north and south shall be identified by a number according to the system established in the City of Portland and in practice in unincorporated Multnomah County on the effective date of this ordinance. There shall be twenty street numbers per mile which shall increase in magnitude to the east and to the west of the N. Williams Avenue centerline.
- (B) A numbered street on or close to a gridline established under Subsection 2.040 shall be designated "Avenue".
- (C) A numbered street located midway between two gridlines established under Subsection 2.040 shall be designated "Place" and shall have the lesser number of the two adjacent gridlines.

2.060 East-West Street Naming System; Urban Area. An east-west street naming system is hereby established for the urban area.

- (A) An urban area street having an alignment generally east and west shall be identified by a name according to the pattern of names established in the City of Portland and in practice in unincorporated Multnomah County on the effective date of this ordinance.

- (B) A named street on or close to a gridline established under Subsection 2.040 shall be designated "Street".
- (C) A named street located midway between two gridlines established under Subsection 2.040 shall be designated "Court" and shall have the same name as that of the preceding street on the gridline nearest to the Burnside center gridline.

2.070 Street Naming System; Rural Area. A rural area street naming system is hereby established.

- (A) The pattern of street names shown on the County Road Map published by the Department of Environmental Services, dated April, 1981, is hereby established as the street naming system for the rural area of Multnomah County. A copy of the map, identified as Appendix A, is hereby made a part of this ordinance.
- (B) Except as established on the County Road Map, Appendix A, or as may be established under Subsection 2.080 (D), a rural area street shall be designated as "Road".
- (C) An extension of a rural area street shall continue the name of that street.
- (D) The name for a new rural area street shall be designated under the provisions of Subsection 2.100.

2.080 Other Designations for Streets. The following additional street naming and numbering provisions are hereby established.

- (A) A named or numbered urban area street which crosses two or more gridlines of the same direction as the street shall be designated "Drive".
- (B) A named or numbered urban area street which forms a loop having two intersections with one other street shall be designated "Circle".
- (C) The designation of a street as "Boulevard", "Highway", "Lane", "Parkway", "Road", "Terrace", "Way" or similar term, established prior to the effective date of this ordinance, is hereby adopted and shall be continued for any extension of the street.
- (D) A designation listed in Subpart (C) of this subsection, or a similar term, may be included in the naming of a new street or the renaming of an existing street under Subsection 2.100, upon a finding that another designation otherwise authorized by this ordinance is inappropriate to the circumstances or inconsistent with the policy and purpose stated in Subsection 2.015.

2.090 Naming and Numbering of Private Streets. A naming and numbering system for private streets is hereby established.

- (A) The name or number of a private street having a length greater than 250 feet shall conform with the naming or numbering system established under Subsections 2.050 through 2.080, as appropriate.
- (B) The name or number of a private street having a length of 250 feet or less shall be the same as the name or number of the connecting public street.

2.100 Naming of a New Rural Area Street; Re-naming of an Existing Urban or Rural Area Street; Procedure. Action to name a new rural area street or to rename an existing urban or rural area street shall be subject to the following:

- (A) A proposed naming or renaming shall be initiated by:
  - (1) resolution of the Board of County Commissioners,
  - (2) resolution of the Planning Commission,
  - (3) a petition filed with the Director, signed by 20% or more of the owners of property abutting an existing street to be renamed,
  - (4) a petition filed with the Director, signed by the owners of 51% or more of the property abutting a new street to be named, and including a name proposed in a land division under MCC 11.45, or
  - (5) administrative order of the Director, Department of Environmental Services.
- (B) A copy of the resolution, petition or order shall be filed with the Clerk of the Board.
- (C) The Hearings Officer shall conduct a public hearing and make a decision on the proposed naming or renaming.
- (D) In addition to the provisions of this section, the provisions of Sections 12.23 through 12.37.5 of Ordinance No. 100, excepting Subsections 12.23.2; 12.23.4 and 12.27.4 thereof, shall apply in the consideration and action on a naming or renaming proposal.
- (E) First class mailed notice of the proposal shall be given at least ten days prior to the hearing to:
  - (1) the owners of all property abutting on the street,
  - (2) the Rural Fire Protection District,

- (3) the Postmaster having jurisdiction,
  - (4) the Director, Department of Justice Services,
  - (5) the Director, Department of Administrative Services, and
  - (6) the Office of City-County Emergency Communication Service.
- (F) Action by the Board of County Commissioners to name or rename a street shall be in the form of an order.
- (1) First class mailed notice of the action shall be given to the parties of the hearing and those listed in subpart (E) of this subsection.
- (G) Criteria for the selection of a rural area street name are:
- (1) factors of historical significance related to persons, circumstances or events,
  - (2) factors of geographical significance,
  - (3) factors of street location, function or direction,
  - (4) common usage of a name for the street or in the area,
  - (5) prior use of the name for the street,
  - (6) name consistency for a continuous route, and
  - (7) non-duplication of another rural area street name.

2.110 Street Name Signs. Standards and requirements for street name signs are hereby established.

- (A) A street name sign shall have the name of the street as designated under the provisions of this ordinance.
- (B) A name sign for a public street shall be designed, installed and maintained in accord with requirements established by the Oregon Department of Transportation.
- (C) A private street name sign to be located in the connecting public street right-of-way shall be installed by the County at the expense of the property owner or land division applicant and thereafter shall be maintained by the County.
- (D) Exception: Approval of a Planned Development or other land development program may include alternate provisions for the installation and maintenance of a private street sign.

(E) A private street sign shall:

- (1) be designed and located according to standards approved by the Director,
- (2) include the lowest and highest property address numbers which are served by the private street, and
- (3) shall include the words "Private Road".

2.120 Numbering of Property; Rural and Urban Areas.

The Director shall assign address numbers for buildings or property and shall maintain records thereof according to the following:

- (A) One hundred numbers shall be provided between each two gridlines established under Subsection 2.040. The numbers shall start with the number "1" at the center gridlines described in Subparts (A) and (B) of that Subsection. The numbers shall continue in consecutive hundreds at each gridline.
- (B) Address numbers on east-west streets between the extended alignment of S.W. Viewpoint Terrace and the Willamette River shall be preceded by "0".
- (C) Odd numbers shall apply to properties or buildings on the northerly or westerly sides of a public street or private street greater than 250 feet in length.
- (D) Even numbers shall apply to properties or buildings on the southerly or easterly sides of a public street or a private street greater than 250 feet in length.
- (E) Numbering of properties or buildings served by a private street having a length of 250 feet or less shall be by consecutive odd or even numbers consistent with those on the same side of the connecting public street.
- (F) An address number shall be assigned for each property or building in separate ownership, possession or occupancy.
- (G) In the event the building address number sequence exceeds the available numbers, a suffix 'A', 'B', 'C', etc. may be assigned by the Director.
- (H) An address number or numbers shall be assigned by the Director in conjunction with the application for a building or land use permit, a land division or upon the written request of the property owner.

- 2.130 Renumbering of Property; Notice. The Director, shall assign a property or building address number under the provisions of Section 2.120, to a property or building which is not so numbered on the effective date of this ordinance, according to the following:
- (A) The address number assignments in the rural area shall be made within one year of the ordinance effective date;
  - (B) First class mailed notice of an address number assignment shall be given to the property owner by the Director;
    - (1) the records of the Department of Administrative Services shall be used to determine the name and address of those persons entitled to notice; and
  - (C) Notice of an address number assignment shall also be given to:
    - (1) the Rural Fire Protection District,
    - (2) the Postmaster having jurisdiction,
    - (3) the Director, Department of Justice Services,
    - (4) the Director, Department of Administrative Services, and
    - (5) the Office of City-County Emergency Communication Service.

2.140 Placement of Address Numbers.

- (A) The property owner or owner's agent shall place the address number assigned by the Director on the building or property at the earliest practical time in one or more of the following locations:
  - (1) on the building,
  - (2) on a sign on the property,
  - (3) on a mail box adjacent to the street, or
  - (4) in such other location as to be legible from the street or access drive.
- (B) Address numbers shall be permanently affixed, of a size, design and placement as to be legible from the street or access drive serving the property, and shall comply with zoning or other ordinance standards for signs.
- (C) Failure to place an assigned address number or the placement of an address number other than one consistent with the provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed a violation.



2.150 Administration; Powers of the Director.

- (A) The Director shall be responsible for the administration and enforcement of this ordinance.
- (B) The Director shall have the authority to do the following:
  - (1) assign urban area street names according to the provisions of this ordinance,
  - (2) determine standards of design and location for private street signs,
  - (3) place and maintain street name signs in public street rights-of-way, as described in this ordinance,
  - (4) assign property and building address numbers, give notice thereof and keep a record of the number assignment,
  - (5) initiate a new street name or the renaming of an existing street under the provisions of Subsection 2.100, and
  - (6) exercise such other powers as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this ordinance.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT OF ORDINANCE NO. 100.

Subsection 8.16 (C), listing the powers of the Hearings Officer, is amended to read:

"(C) Consider and decide proposals for the naming or renaming of streets under provisions established by ordinance."

~~-(C) --Recommend to the Board ordinances renaming public thoroughfares and the numbering of property under ORS 215.110-(2).~~

(Material crossed out is deleted.)

ADOPTION

This ordinance being necessary for the health, safety and general welfare of the people of Multnomah County, shall take effect on July 9, 1981, 1981, according to Section 5.50 of the Charter of Multnomah County.

ADOPTED this 8th day of June, 1981, being the date of its second reading before the Board of County Commissioners of Multnomah County.

FOR THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By

Gladys McCoy  
Presiding Officer

Authenticated by the County Executive on the 10th day of June, 1981.

Donald E. Clark  
DONALD E. CLARK, County Executive

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JOHN B. LEAHY  
County Counsel for  
Multnomah County, Oregon

By

John B. Leahy  
Deputy County Counsel