

**BLIGHT ELIMINATION ORDINANCE  
BRIDGEPORT CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
Ord. No. 01-05                      eff. September 28, 2001(as amended)**

**48.000**                      An ordinance to prevent, reduce or eliminate blight, blighting factors or causes of blight within Bridgeport Charter Township, Saginaw County, Michigan; to provide for the enforcement hereof; and to provide penalties for the violation hereof. Pursuant to the enacting authority therefore provided by act 344 of the Public Acts of 1945, as amended and by the police powers granted by act 359 of the Public Acts of 1947, as amended.

**THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEPORT ORDAINS:**

**48.010                      Section 1: Purpose**

Consistent with the letter and spirit of Public Act 344 of 1945, as amended, it is the purpose of this ordinance to prevent, reduce or eliminate blight or blighting factors and causes of blight in the Charter Township of Bridgeport by the prevention or elimination of certain environmental causes of blight or blighting factors which exist or which may in the future exist in said Township.

**48.020                      Section 2: Causes of Blight or Blighting Factors**

It is hereby determined that the following uses, structures and activities are causes of blight or blighting factors which, while allowed to exist, will tend to result in blighted and undesirable neighborhoods and therefore, on and after the effective date of this ordinance, no person, firm or corporation of any kind shall maintain or permit to be maintained any of these causes of blight or blighting factors upon any property in Bridgeport Charter Township owned, leased, rented or occupied by such person, firm or corporation.

**48.030**                      In any area, the storage upon any property of junk automobiles, except in a completely enclosed building or upon the premises of a property zoned and legally operating as a licensed/approved junk yard, automobile repair garage and/or automobile wrecker business. For the purpose of this ordinance, the term "junk automobiles" shall include any motor vehicle which is not licensed for use upon the highways of the State of Michigan, and shall also include, whether so licensed or not, any motor vehicle, as defined in the Michigan Vehicle Code, which is inoperative for any reason.

**48.040**                      In any area, the storage or accumulation of junk, trash, rubbish, refuse, debris, offal, garbage, paper, glass, cans, bottles, or other foreign substances of any kind which shall cause unhealthy or obnoxious conditions by sight or odor, attract or harbor vermin, or otherwise present a threat to the Public Health, Safety, or General Welfare of the people of the Charter Township of Bridgeport. The term "junk" shall include parts of machinery or motor vehicles, unused stoves or other appliances stored in the open, remnants of woods, metal or any other material or other cast-off material of any kind whether or not the same could be put to any reasonable use. Nothing herein is to prohibit the storing or placing on such lands, implements of husbandry in operating condition and used annually in farming operations.

**48.050**                      In any area, the existence of any structure or part of any structure which, because of fire, wind or other natural disaster or physical degeneration, is no longer habitable and which the condition has existed for 30 days without repair.

**48.060**                      In any area, the existence of any vacant dwelling, garage or other out-building unless such buildings are kept securely locked, windows kept glazed or neatly boarded up and otherwise protected to prevent entrance thereto by vandals, or other unauthorized persons and the structure is not otherwise open to the elements.

**48.070**                      In any area, the existence of any partially completed structure unless such structure is in the course of construction in accordance with a valid building permit issued by the Township or unless such construction is completed within 30 days, of the start of the project.

**48.080**                      In any area, permit on such land an abandoned, unused or unprotected well, cellar or other unnatural declivity in which stagnant water or debris is retained or which is dangerous to a person, including a child, being or coming upon said land.

**48.090                      Section 3: Prohibited Conditions:**

A. In any area, it shall be unlawful for any person, knowingly, to dump, deposit, place, throw or leave or cause or permit the dumping, depositing, placing, throwing or leaving of litter, trash, junk, rubbish, refuse, offal, garbage, paper, glass, cans, bottles, or other foreign substances, debris, grass clippings, or brush within the Charter Township of Bridgeport.

- B. In any area, it shall be unlawful for the storage upon any property of building materials unless:
  - I. Structure Requiring Permit. There is in force a valid building permit issued by the Charter Township of Bridgeport for construction upon said property and said materials are intended for use in connection with such construction, or
  - II In Enclosed Building. The storage or accumulation of building materials is kept in a completely enclosed building, or
  - III. Part of Business Stock. Where such building materials are part of the stock in trade or business located on premises of said property zoned and/or legally operating.

Building materials shall include without limitation: lumber, bricks, concrete or cinder blocks, plumbing materials, electrical wiring or equipment, heating ducts or equipment, shingles, mortar, concrete or cement, nails, screws, or any other materials used in constructing any structure.

- A. In any area zoned or used for residential purposes, it shall be unlawful to park or store, except in a completely enclosed building, any: motorcycle, motor home, travel trailer, camper, boat trailer or cargo trailer (not used as part of a farming operation) which has not been licensed within the previous 6 months or that is inoperative or poor condition.
- B. It shall be unlawful for grass, weeds or a combination of weeds and grass to exceed 10 inches in height, for lots or parcels in any business or industrial district, or any residential lot of less than 2 acres in size. Unoccupied residential parcels of 2 or more acres in size, wooded lot areas, or parcels used as part of an agricultural business shall be exempt from the requirements of this paragraph. (Amended by Ord. 02-02, eff. May 11, 2002)

Occupied parcels of 2 or more acres in size which contain buildings and/or structures shall maintain an effective firebreak by removing brush, grass or weeds or a combination of weeds and grass so as not to exceed 10 inches in height within 30 feet of any buildings and/or structures. (Amended by Ord. 02-02, eff. May 11, 2002)

- E. In any area of the Township it shall be unlawful to cause or permit the existence or presence of or the storage of Blighting Factors or Causes of Blight as described in Section 2 above. (Amended by Ord. 03-10, eff. July 9, 2003)

**48.100 Section 4: Enforcement and Penalties**

- A. This Ordinance shall be enforced by an Ordinance Enforcement Officer or any Police Officer of Bridgeport Charter Township, or such other person who shall be designated for such purpose by the Township Manager.
- B. Any person or entity who violates any of the provisions of this Ordinance is responsible, for each such violation, for a municipal civil infraction as defined by Michigan law and subject to a civil fine determined in accordance with the following Class C Infraction schedule:
 

First Offense within a 3-year period:	\$95.00
Second Offense within a 3-year period:	\$145.00
Third or Subsequent Offense within a 3-year period:	

The Court shall exercise its discretion in setting the appropriate fine, and shall take into consideration, among other relevant factors, the ongoing, flagrant and/or abusive nature of the violation and the potential for harm to the Township's efforts to eliminate blight in light of the repeated nature of the offense.
- C. Each day a violation of this Ordinance continues to exist after the date of the citation shall subject the violation to an additional fine amount of \$5.00 per day.
- D. Additionally, the violator shall be ordered to pay restitution to the Township, which may include all direct and indirect expenses which the Township has incurred in connection with the violation enforcement action for each such citation. In no case, however, shall restitution of less than \$9.00 or more than \$500.00 be ordered each such citation.

E. A violator of the Ordinance shall also be subject to such additional sanctions, remedies, and judicial orders as are authorized under Michigan law.

**48.110 Section 5: Repeal:**  
Ordinances, specifically Ordinance Number II D-1, Effective October 15, 1971 or parts of Ordinances of the Charter Township of Bridgeport inconsistent or in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

**48.120 Section 6: Invalidity:**  
If any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or part of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid for any reason whatsoever, such a decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance which shall remain in full force and effect and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

**48.130 Section 7: Effective Date and Adoption:**  
This ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after its publication.

This ordinance was adopted by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Bridgeport, Saginaw County, Michigan, at a Regular meeting thereof held on August 7, 2001.

First Read:	May 1, 2001
First Publication:	May 16, 2001
Second Reading:	June 5, 2001
Adoption:	August 7, 2001
Publication of Adoption:	August 22, 2001
Republication of Adoption:	August 29, 2001
Effective Date:	September 28, 2001
Amendment	May 11, 2002 (Ord. 02-02)
Amendment	July 9, 2003 (Ord. 03-10)