

# GUN PLAIN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

ORDINANCE NO. 191

ADOPTED: 3-5-2026

EFFECTIVE 3-20-2026

## Shooting Range Ordinance

### SECTION 1 DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

The purpose of this Ordinance is to secure and maintain the public health, safety and welfare of the residents and property owners of the Charter Township of Gun Plain Township by prohibiting and/or regulating the discharge of firearms in residential and commercial areas in the Township and near residences and outbuildings of the rural and forested areas in the Township where such discharge would be dangerous to persons and property.

This Ordinance may be known and cited as the "Charter Township of Gun Plain Township Shooting Range Ordinance".

### SECTION 2 DEFINITIONS

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this ordinance, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

***Approved range*** means a range for the shooting of firearms, constructed in such a manner as to prevent the projectile from any weapon so fired on said range from exceeding the physical limits of said range.

***Building, structure or edifice*** means a space within its walls and usually, but not necessarily, covered with a roof.

***Indoor Sport Shooting Range*** means an Indoor area designed and operated for the use of archery or firearms, such as rifles, shotguns, pistols, silhouettes, skeet, trap, black powder, or any other similar sport shooting.

***Firearm*** means any weapon or device from which is propelled any missile, projectile, bullet, shot, pellet or other mass by means of explosives, compressed air or gas, or by means of springs, levers or other mechanical devices.

***Debris Free Earth/Clean Soil*** means soil shall be screened and free of subsoil, clay lumps, stones, rocks, weeds, roots, construction debris, and other unsuitable materials.

***Restricted Zones*** means the following zoning districts as identified in the Township Zoning Ordinance.

### SECTION 3 PROHIBITED AREAS OF USE

Areas where firearm discharge is prohibited. In addition to those areas within the township which the state of Michigan and other authorities have closed to firearm discharge and/or closed to hunting, the discharge of firearms shall also be prohibited in the following areas:

1. Near buildings, school property or churches. It shall be unlawful after the effective date of the ordinance from which this division is derived to discharge any firearm.
2. Not prohibited elsewhere in this division, within an area of 150 yards of any building, structure or edifice, whether occupied or unoccupied.
3. Permitted elsewhere within 150 yards of any public or private school real property.
4. Upon or across public roads. From and after the effective date of the ordinance from which this division is derived, it shall be unlawful to discharge any firearm upon or across any public road or highway, within said township.
5. Restricted Zones are as follows: C1:C2: I1: LR: R3: R4: Airport: Hyder Circle Sub-division, Spruce View Sub-division: PUD.
6. Township property while active recreational use is being conducted.
7. Township property while official business is being conducted. I.E. voting, township meetings, training or other public events.

**Exceptions:** The prohibitions against discharge of firearms contained in Section 3 hereof shall not apply to:

1. Authorized officers of the law acting in the performance of their duties; or
2. Persons acting in the reasonable belief that a discharge of a firearm is necessary for the preservation of life or the protection of property.

### SECTION 4 SHOOTING RANGES CONSTRUCTION

The following only applies to Private Ranges, not Commercial Ranges

1. Minimum height requirement shall be 10 feet tall by 15 feet wide.
2. Use of debris free earth/clean soil (dirt, sand).
3. Constructed materials for shooting range backstop must be covered by a minimum of 18 inches of debris free earth/clean soil.
4. Shooting Range field/alley can not be longer than 100 yards.

### SECTION 5 TIMES PERMITTED

1. Allowed times to use shooting ranges will be from 8AM until 8PM.

### SECTION 6 LOCAL REGULATION

1. Except as otherwise provided in this act, this act does not prohibit a local unit of government from regulating the location, use, operation, safety, and construction of a sport shooting range.

## SECTION 7 ACCEPTANCE OF RISK

1. Each person who participates in sport shooting at a sport shooting range that conforms to generally accepted operation practices accepts the risks associated with the sport to the extent the risks are obvious and inherent. Those risks include, but are not limited to, injuries that may result from noise, discharge of a projectile or shot, malfunction of sport shooting equipment not owned by the shooting range, natural variations in terrain, surface or subsurface snow or ice conditions, bare spots, rocks, trees, and other forms of natural growth or debris.

## SECTION 8 VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

1. A violation of this division is deemed to be a nuisance pursuant to section and shall be abated pursuant to section.
2. In addition to constituting a nuisance, a violation of this division shall constitute a municipal civil infraction pursuant MCL, and any person or entity violating his division is responsible for a municipal civil infraction and subject to the fines and costs to be levied in accordance with the schedule of municipal civil infraction fines determined by the township board, as amended from time to time, and which shall be posted at the Municipal Ordinance Violations Bureau located at the Gun Plain Township Hall, 381 8<sup>th</sup> St Plainwell MI 49080
3. A violator of this division shall also be subject to such additional civil fines, costs, damages, expenses or judicial orders as may be authorized under MCL.
4. Each day a violation of this division continues to exist constitutes a separate violation.
5. Any person that violates any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed to be responsible for a municipal civil infraction as defined by Michigan statute and shall be subject to a civil fine as determined in accordance with the following schedule:

	Minimum Fine	Maximum Fine
1 <sup>st</sup> offense within a 3 year period*	\$200.00	\$500.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> offense within a 3 year period	\$300.00	\$500.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> offense within a 3 year period	\$400.00	\$500.00
4 <sup>th</sup> offense within a 3 year period	\$500.00	\$500.00

\*Determined based on the date of commission of the offense(s).

6. A violation is also subject to costs which may include all expenses, direct and indirect, to which the Township has incurred in connection with the municipal civil infraction. A violator of this ordinance shall also be subject to such additional sanctions and judicial orders as are authorized under Michigan law.

***Ordinance NO. 191***

***Effective date***

This ordinance takes effect 7 days following publication of notice of its adoption pursuant to Michigan Public Act 110 of 2006. All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are repealed.

Moved by K. Meert, seconded by Horton, that the foregoing Ordinance be adopted.

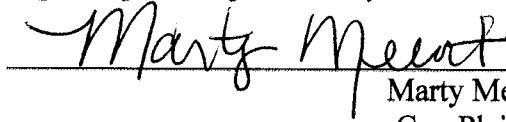
AYES: Members: K. Meert, Horton, M. VanDenBerg, Albertson, C. VanDenBerg, Pearson

NAYS: Members: None

Absent: Members: M. Meert

**ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED.**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of an ordinance adopted by the Township Board of the Township of Gun Plain at a regular meeting thereof held on the date first stated above, and I further certify that public notice of such meeting was given as provided by law.



Marty Meert, Clerk  
Gun Plain Charter Township