



County of Ottawa

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TO: Bill Holland 11/13/07

FROM: Sgt. Wm. Ward

REF: Purchasing and Posting of Signs Prohibiting The Act of Engine Braking.

This request is being submitted to Georgetown Township to purchase and arrange posting of signs with the Ottawa County Road Commission, informing the driving public of the Township ordinance prohibiting engine braking or Jake braking. This ordinance regulates engine braking within the borders of Georgetown Township. The ordinance number 2006-04 is located in Article X in Chapter 38. The ordinance was voted on by the Township Board and was effective on July 20th, 2006. The act of engine braking is used by drivers of semi trucks, using their exhaust manifolds powered auxiliary braking systems found on semi trucks in means of slowing down and stopping. The use and application of engine brakes are loud, noisy and disruptive to the peace and tranquility of nearby residential areas. This ordinance does not affect the average driver within the Township, only those driving semi tractor trailers. The act of engine braking is not illegal throughout the state of Michigan, only in Townships and Cities that have enacted ordinances against the practice. The Georgetown Township Board has taken the first step in attempts to stop this practice by passing the ordinance however the second step is legally enforcing the ordinance. Because of the fact that engine braking may not be illegal in nearby Cities and Township but is throughout Georgetown Township we are obligated to inform semi drivers that work or pass through the Township. This can be done by placing signs throughout the Township where semi's frequently travel, prohibiting the act of engine braking. This would aid enforcement efforts in this area and future court proceeding for citations that may be issued for violating this ordinance. We at that time can show and prove to Judge Post and the District Court that attempts have been made through posting of signs to inform the violators of this act. With out this effort I am sure that the Magistrate and/or the Judge would dismiss the citation, citing that without posting of this ordinance the average person would not have local knowledge of the violation.

Attached is a map showing twelve locations throughout the Township that I feel are vital in posting of this ordinance. These locations cover areas that semi traffic is most common within the Township.

Respectfully,

Sgt. Wm. Ward
Georgetown Branch Supervisor
Ottawa County Sheriff Office

Jake Braking Sign Locations

- #1—West bound 44th by Kenowa**
- #2—North bound 8th by Floral View Gardens**
- #3—West bound Chicago Dr. by Cottonwood**
- #4—East bound Chicago Dr. by Hudsonville City Limits**
- #5—North bound 48th by New Holland**
- #6—East bound Port Sheldon by 48th**
- #7—East bound Baldwin by 48th**
- #8—East bound Bauer by 48th**
- #9—South bound 48th by Fillmore**
- #10- East bound Fillmore by 48th**
- #11- North bound 28th by Port Sheldon**
- #12- West bound Baldwin by Cottonwood**