TOWNSHIP OF EAST WINDSOR
COUNTY OF MERCER
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-08

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR THE PROVISION AND MAINTENANCE OF RADIO COVERAGE WITHIN BUILDINGS FOR EMERGENCY AND FIRST RESPONDER RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST WINDSOR in the County of Mercer and the State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION I. PURPOSE

To ensure reliable in-building radio communications for emergency responders and to maintain compatibility with the Mercer County public safety radio system, thereby protecting life safety and supporting effective emergency operations.

SECTION II. APPLICABILITY

This Ordinance shall apply to:

1. All new buildings.
2. Existing buildings where:
    a. The Fire Official determines radio coverage is inadequate;
    b. There is a change of use, addition, or substantial renovation; or
    c. Conditions exist that interfere with public safety radio communications.
3. Additions that may impact radio signal strength within the structure.

SECTION III. RADIO SYSTEM COORDINATION (MERCER COUNTY ALIGNMENT)

A. All ERCES installations shall be designed to operate on frequencies and systems approved by the Mercer County public safety communications network.
B. System design and installation shall require:
    - Written approval from the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)
    - Coordination with the County communications division or its designee
    - Certification that the system will not cause harmful interference
C. The building owner shall be responsible for all costs associated with:
    - System design
    - Frequency coordination
    - Testing and acceptance

SECTION IV. MINIMUM RADIO COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS

A. Buildings shall provide:
    - 95 dBm signal strength in at least 95% of all areas
    - -85 dBm in critical areas, including:
        - Fire command centers
        - Exit stairs
        - Fire pump and mechanical rooms
        - Standpipe hose connections
B. Delivered Audio Quality (DAQ) shall meet a minimum of DAQ 3.0.

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SECTION V. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Where required, the building shall be equipped with an ERCES that:

1. Complies with:
    - National Fire Protection Association NFPA 1225 (or latest adopted standard)
    - Applicable provisions of the International Fire Code Section 510 (as modified by New Jersey)
2. Includes:
    - Bi-directional amplifiers or distributed antenna systems
    - Emergency power:
        i. Minimum 24-hour standby + 12-hour full operation
    - Automatic system monitoring
    - Annunciation at an approved location
3. Is installed by qualified personnel and approved by the AHJ.

SECTION VI. TESTING AND ACCEPTANCE

A. Acceptance testing shall be conducted prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.
B. Testing shall include:
    - Grid-based signal strength testing
    - Interference testing with the County system
    - Documentation submitted by the Township
C. The AHJ reserves the right to require third-party verification.

SECTION VII. ANNUAL TESTING AND MAINTENANCE

A. The system shall be tested annually.
B. Records shall be maintained and submitted to the Township upon request.
C. Any system impairment shall be reported immediately to the AHJ.

SECTION VIII. EXISTING BUILDINGS

Where the Fire Official determines that a building lacks adequate radio coverage for emergency responders, the owner shall:

- Conduct testing within a specified timeframe
- Install an approved ERCES if deficiencies are confirmed

A compliance schedule shall be established by the AHJ.

SECTION VI. ENFORCEMENT

A. Enforced by the Fire Official and Construction Official
B. Non-compliance may result in:
    - Denial or revocation of Certificate of Occupancy
    - Notice of violation
    - Fines and penalties as permitted by law
C. The AHJ reserves the right to require third-party verification.

SECTION X. REPEAL

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

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SECTION XI. SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, clause or phrase of this ordinance is held to be unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this ordinance.

SECTION XII. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect 20 days after final passage and publication according to law.

ATTEST:

_____	_____
ALLISON QUIGLEY	**JANICE S. MIRONOV**
Municipal Clerk	Mayor

Introduced:
Adopted:
Effective Date:

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