



Charter Township of Meridian Community Engagement Plan: External Social Media Policy

We welcome your engagement with Meridian Township's social media accounts. The purpose of Meridian Township's social media accounts are to present matters of public interest to the Meridian Township community. Meridian Township aims to effectively use social media to provide information, support community engagement, promote community news and happenings, assist recruitment efforts, and guide public discussions regarding Meridian Township.

We encourage you to submit your local photos, questions, comments, and concerns, but please note that Meridian Township's social media accounts serve as moderated online discussion sites and represent a limited public forum. By engaging with Meridian Township's social media accounts, you acknowledge the following policy:

Moderation of Comments and Third-Party Content

Meridian Township and its employees do not necessarily endorse, encourage, verify, or agree with third-party comments, posts, and messages posted on social media sites operated by the Township. Our goal is to share and exchange information with those interested in topics relating to the Meridian Township community and our policy is to accept the vast majority of comments made to our page.

That said, Meridian Township's social media accounts serve as limited public forums, and all content published is subject to preservation and disclosure in accordance with the Michigan Freedom of Information Act. User-generated posts and comments may be rejected or removed if the content:

- contains vulgar language, obscenity, personal attacks of any kind, or offensive comments that target or disparage individuals or groups based on legally protected characteristics such as race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/presentation, marital status, familial status, height, weight, disability status, or any other classifications protected by law.
- includes spam or include links to other sites not applicable to the Meridian Township community.
- is clearly off topic.
- advocates illegal activity.
- makes threats of violence.
- promotes particular services, products, or political organizations.
- infringes on copyrights or trademarks.
- is volatile of any local, state, or federal laws.
- compromises or attempts to compromise the safety or security of the public or public institutions.



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By engaging with comments on Meridian Township accounts, you recognize that you are participating at your own risk, and you take personal responsibility for your comments, your username, and any information otherwise provided.

We expect ideas and information shared in a respectful manner on any social media account operated by the Meridian Township. Three (3) violations of the expectations listed above may result in the offending user being blocked or banned from posting. If an individual wishes to appeal a ban or block from Meridian Township social media sites, an appeal can be made to the Communications Department at communications@meridian.mi.us.

If Meridian Township believes a post violates the community standards of any social media site; including trolling, Meridian Township may report the violator in question to the site's administrators. If a post violates any law or is threatening to the safety of any individual or the Meridian Township community, the post may be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Retention of Records

Any communications sent to or received by Meridian Township and its employees via social media may be subject to our retention and disclosure requirements. We are required to comply with the Michigan Freedom of Information Act to ensure our government is open and that the public may access public records and information of which our agency is the custodian. These retention requirements apply regardless of the form of the record (e.g. digital text, photos, audio, and video). To that end, we automatically collect and store all information posted on Meridian Township's social media accounts. All information posted on Meridian Township's social media accounts may be subject to public disclosure under the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, even if it has been revised or deleted. Meridian Township's Communications Department shall preserve records pursuant to a relevant records retention schedule.