

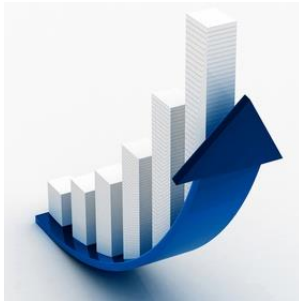
# The DeCoder

Legislative & Trending News for Local Governments

**GENERAL  
CODE**  
Codification Division  
August 2015

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## Trending Legislative Topics



Be sure to follow us on [Twitter](#) for timely legislative and local government news!

It might be summer, but there's no 'sitting by the pool' for these municipalities. Many local governments are still hard at work legislating on a number of interesting topics...

- [Removal of Bandit Signs](#) (via Sussex County Post)
- [MI 'Death Star Bill': Limiting the Power of Local Government](#) (via WLNS6)
- [Confederate Flags](#) (via Richmond Times-Dispatch)
- [Large-Capacity Ammunition Magazines](#) (via Los Angeles Times)
- [Licensing Solicitors](#) (via Democrat & Chronicle)
- [Charging Homeowners for Grass Mowing](#) (via Michigan Radio)
- [Banning Pet Store Sales of 'Puppy Mill' Dogs and Commercially-Bred Cats](#) (via AZCentral)
- [Caffeine Pill Sales to Minors](#) (via WAPT News 16)

**General Code clients: Have you adopted new legislation or updated your ordinances recently?**

Be sure to submit your latest updates to us at [EZSupp@generalcode.com](mailto:EZSupp@generalcode.com). Contact us toll-free at (800) 836-8834 if you have questions.

[Read More](#)

## The Wild and Exotic Animals Next Door



A White Lion Cub  
(Photo credit: Hannah Baumgartner)

From vicious dogs to regulating breeding operations and defining what constitutes a therapy animal, local governments legislate to protect citizens and animals alike. And when stories surface about large snakes roaming neighborhoods or alligators showing up in backyard pools, the concern skyrockets.

**Born Free USA** has posted an extensive list of local laws across the country that prohibit or strictly regulate the private possession of certain exotic animals. Read more at [www.bornfreeusa.org](http://www.bornfreeusa.org).

**eCode360®** clients can also perform a [multicode search](#) to learn if and how neighboring municipalities are regulating wild and exotic animals.

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## Social Media for Local Government

**How creative or experimental is your municipality with social media?** Have you ever tried using a music video format to engage with your citizens? You don't have to be Taylor Swift or Maroon 5 to make it fun and attention-grabbing.

Check out **GovLoop's** article about how government agencies are using music videos to reach out to their constituents: "[Turn It Up: How Government Uses Music Videos to Engage Citizens](#)"



From the Puget Sound PSA video "Dog Doogity"



## eCode360 has a NEW feature!



For more info check out our new *eCode Quick Reference Cards*. Available in the eCode Help section under FAQs at [ecode360.com/help/faq](http://ecode360.com/help/faq)

Do you spend a lot of time copying and pasting sections from your eCode? Do people ever request an editable Word document of your Code? We're excited to bring you this new feature! You can now download sections, chapters or the entire text of your eCode into a Microsoft Word document.

See for yourself – watch this [53-second video](#) on our Facebook page. (*Note: you don't have to be logged in to Facebook to view it.*)

You can also attend one of our FREE informational and interactive webinars! [View our schedule of upcoming webinars.](#)

**Don't have *ecode360* yet?** See it in action! Check out our latest local government customers who give their citizens online access to their municipal codes:

- [City of Port Huron, MI](#)
- [Village of New Haven, MI](#)
- [City of Cool Valley, MO](#)
- [City of Valley Park, MO](#)
- [Borough of Bradford Woods, PA](#)
- [Township of Mahoning, PA](#)
- [Town of Cumberland, RI](#)

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## Grammar Makes a Difference

**LET'S EAT GRANDMA.  
LET'S EAT, GRANDMA.**  
COMMAS SAVE LIVES

How long has it been since your Code was reviewed? If you're concerned about the accuracy of your Code, or whether it is still statutorily consistent, consider an [Editorial and Legal Analysis](#).

**Did you hear the one about a comma that cost a municipality a lawsuit?** Don't wait for a punchline. There isn't one.

An Ohio village cited an individual for violating its parking ordinance when she left her pickup truck on a street.

Unfortunately, the village ordinance stated that it was illegal to park "any *motor vehicle camper*, trailer, farm implement and/or non-motorized vehicle" on a street for more than 24 hours.

A missing comma cost the village when the cited individual took the issue to the Ohio 12th District Court of Appeals. It

just goes to show how important an accurate and well-edited Code can be!

Read the whole story on the [Washington Post website](#).

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## Celebrating Our Clients

Look what our clients have been up to lately!

Congratulations to **Jane Cypher, Clerk of the Town of Hampton, NH**, who recently completed her third year of studies at the New England Municipal Clerks' Institute at Plymouth State University. She has now achieved the International Institute of Municipal Clerks' Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation.

**Thirty-five of our New Jersey clients** have been named to *The 50 Safest Towns in New Jersey*. Safewise, a company that provides security systems and surveys on the safest towns in the country, released a list this week of the safest towns in New Jersey, "noting that the state's violent crime is dropping and 50 Garden State communities have an average crime rate that is 78 percent less than it is across the country." Congratulations to our NJ clients who made the list!

Violent storms have been plaguing many of our clients this summer. As all of our municipal clients know, getting information to and from constituents as quickly and efficiently as possible is critical. In this vein, the **Town of Brookhaven, NY** went 'live' for the first time on its local TV station to update residents about storm clean-up efforts. Read about how it went on [Brookhaven's website](#).

For more cool stories about our fantastic clients in Massachusetts, Missouri, Maryland and other states, check out our [board on Pinterest!](#)



[Civil Rights activist Frederick Douglass is honored with a statue in Talbot County, MD \(a General Code client\).](#)  
(Photo credit: Michael Peter)

## Customer Connection



Jerome, Arizona Town Hall  
(Photo credit: Kerry Johnson)

Thank you to the following municipalities for choosing to partner with us on your current codification projects!

- Village of Oakwood, IL
- Town of Marion, MA
- Town of Middleborough, MA
- Chesterfield Charter Township, MI
- City of New Buffalo, MI
- City of Charleston, MO
- Town of Lysander, NY
- Borough of Dalton, PA
- Township of O'Hara, PA
- Village of Slinger, WI

[Read More](#)

Get social with us!



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