



OFFICE OF THE RANLO TOWN MANAGER

Jonathan D. Blanton
Town Hall
1624 Spencer Mountain Road
Ranlo, North Carolina 28054



April 17, 2021

Leo John
North Carolina League of Municipalities
Counsel for Legislative Affairs
434 Fayetteville Street
Suite 1900
Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

Dear Mr. John:

Thank you for recently bringing to my attention the Town of Ranlo's noncompliance with S.L. 2019-198.

The Town understands, respects, and appreciates that this information was critical to developing the recent Report on Study of Crimes to the North Carolina General Assembly and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government. I have reviewed the February 2021 report to the General Assembly from the General Statutes Commission that your office provided and I was disheartened to see Ranlo cited as the only municipality within Gaston County, and one of only forty-six municipalities, not to comply with the 2019 law by the November 2019 deadline. I have conveyed this information to my governing board and expressed the gravity of the situation, including the possibility of the Town being subject to severe legal consequences and restrictions because of this noncompliance.

I have compiled the information that I believe to be pertinent in this matter in Table A below.

Table A: Ordinances Punishable within the Town of Ranlo Code of Ordinances under North Carolina General Statute 14-4

Ordinance Punishable by G.S. 14-4	Description of Conduct Subject to Criminal Punishment under the Ordinance
Ranlo Code of Ordinances 1-1006 – Criminal Penalties as a Non-Exclusive Remedy	Blanket statement providing that General Statute 14-4 governs violations of any provisions and will constitute a misdemeanor.
Ranlo Code of Ordinances 5-1011 – Emergency Water Conservation	Offenders subject to criminal fines for violations of a declaration of water emergency.
Ranlo Code of Ordinance 5-2008 – Violation of Industrial Pretreatment Requirements	Offenders subject to criminal fines for noncompliance of the requirements for pretreatment plants.
Ranlo Code of Ordinances 6-1094 – Violations of Licensing Provisions for Masseurs, Masseuses, Massage, Health Salons, and Clubs	Offenders subject to misdemeanor charges if in violation of local licensing requirements.
Ranlo Code of Ordinances 7-1065 – Commercial Vehicle Truck Routes	Offenders subject to misdemeanor charges for operating a commercial vehicle on restricted streets

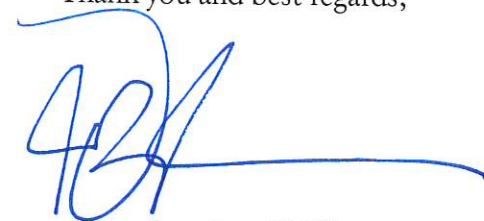
Ranlo Code of Ordinances 7-1215 – Golf Cart Enforcement	Offenders subject to misdemeanor charges for operating a golf cart with a suspended license, or no license.
Ranlo Code of Ordinance 8-5001 – General Penalties	Offenders are subject to penalties for violation of any provision of this code regulating the operation of any vehicle.
Ranlo Code of Ordinances 8-6007 – Youth and Juvenile Protection	Offenders, other than juveniles, who violate these provisions a third or subsequent time will be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of \$100.00.
Ranlo Code of Ordinances 8-7002 – Sex Offenders on or About Public Parks	Offenders are subject to penalties for violation of being on public parks/places.
Ranlo Code of Ordinances 9-2102 – Enforcement of Housing Code	Offenders are subject to misdemeanor charges for failing to comply with an order to abate a building that is unfit for human habitation.
Ranlo Code of Ordinances 9-2105 – Enforcement of Housing Code	Offenders are subject to misdemeanor charges for failing to comply with an order to abate a building that is unfit for human habitation.

After a charter amendment in the spring of 2020, I was appointed as the first Town Manager for the Town of Ranlo. Since then, the Town has undertaken a ten-month review of our local ordinances and we are currently under contract with American Legal Publishing to provide for a forensic legal review of our local ordinances, as well as a full-codification and publication of our code. It is my hope that the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government will view this as a positive step in rectifying noncompliance with the legal mandate from S.L. 2019-198 and evidence of substantial progress on revising our code of ordinances.

Again, please accept the Town's fervent apologies for not submitting this information to the General Assembly by the November 2019 deadline. I can assure you that both I and our governing board are committed to complying with North Carolina General Statutes and fulfilling any requests that the General Assembly deems necessary. I appreciate your consideration and assistance on this matter.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance and I greatly appreciate the work that you are doing for the League and for all of North Carolina.

Thank you and best regards,



Jonathan D. Blanton
Ranlo Town Manager

CC:

Karen Waddell
Senator Kathy Harrington
Representative Sarah Stevens
Susan L. Sitze
Melissa Zbikowski