

TOWNSHIP OF EWING

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, TO REQUIRE KNOX BOXES AT NEW COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS, EXISTING COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS WITH IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRING PLANNING BOARD APPROVAL, EXISTING COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS AND CERTAIN MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

WHEREAS, an ordinance is necessary to require certain commercial and residential buildings to install Knox Boxes; and,

WHEREAS, the benefits of installing Knox Boxes include providing immediate emergency access to firefighters leading to increasing Fire Department efficiency; preventing costly forced entry damage and allowing undamaged doors to be re-secured after the emergency; and protecting property, inventory, equipment and supplies as well as firefighters against possible injuries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Ewing that the Revised General Municipal Ordinances of the Township of Ewing, Chapter 108, Fire Prevention, be amended as follows:

Section 1:

§108-8. Knox Boxes.

- A. Knox Box Required for New Commercial Buildings.** All new commercial buildings shall have installed a Knox Box, of a UL type and size approved by the Township Fire Official, in a location specified by the Township Fire Official prior to the issuance of the permit of occupancy.
- B. Knox Box Required for Existing Commercial Buildings with Improvements.** All existing commercial buildings constructing improvements that require Planning Board approval shall have installed a Knox Box, of a UL type and size approved by the Township Fire Official, in a location specified by the Township Fire Official prior to the issuance of the construction permit.
- C. Knox Box Required for Existing Commercial Buildings.** All existing commercial buildings equipped with automatic fire detection and/or suppression system shall have installed a Knox Box, of a UL type and size approved by the Township Fire Official, in a location specified by the Township Fire Official within six (6) months of the effective date of this Ordinance.
- D. Knox Box Required for Multi-Family Residential Structures.** All multi-family residential structures that have restricted access through locked doors and have a common corridor for access to the living units shall have installed a Knox Box, of a UL type and size approved by the Township Fire Official, in a location specified by the Township Fire Official within six (6) months of the effective date of this Ordinance.
- E. Knox Box Contents.** All Knox Boxes shall contain labeled keys, easily identified in the field to provide access into the property and/or building, and to any locked areas within the said building as the Township Fire Official may direct.
- F. Penalties.** Any property or building owner failing to comply with, or in violation of the terms of this Ordinance after notice from the Township Fire Official, shall be subject to a fine of One Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$100.00).

G. Definitions. “Knox Box” means a secure rapid entry system that is designed to be used by Fire Department Personnel in the event of an emergency to gain entry into a structure by using the enclosed owner provided key(s). This box is usually mounted on the exterior of the building in a location that is specified by the local Fire Official. All boxes shall be UL (Underwriters Laboratories) certified and approved by the Township Fire Official.

Section 2: This Ordinance shall take effect after final passage and publication according to law.

STATEMENT

This Ordinance amends the Revised General Municipal Ordinances of the Township of Ewing to require Knox Boxes at certain commercial and residential buildings.