

Ordinance No. 213

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NEW SEWICKLEY, COUNTY OF BEAVER, PENNSYLVANIA REQUIRING THE INSTALLATION OF AN EMERGENCY RESPONDER RAPID ACCESS ENTRY BOX ON CERTAIN COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, INSITUTIONAL AND MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS.

WHEREAS, an ordinance is necessary to require certain buildings to install emergency responder rapid access boxes; and,

WHEREAS, the benefits of installing emergency responder rapid access 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 injury.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of New Sewickley, County of Beaver, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, it is hereby enacted and ordained as follows:

**Section 101 Purpose**

A. The purpose of this Ordinance is to protect and promote health, safety, and welfare of the residents and businesses of the Township.

**Section 102 Definitions:**

Emergency Responder Rapid Access Entry Box: A small, securely mounted safe that holds building keys for fire departments and emergency medical services, commonly called a "Knox Box".

**Section 103 Emergency Responder Rapid Access Entry Boxes Required:**

- A. An Emergency Responder Rapid Access shall be required to be installed for:
1. All newly constructed nonresidential buildings when regarded as a principal structure subject to Township Ordinance 208 (zoning as amended) and/or when subject to the Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance.
  2. All newly constructed buildings containing more than two dwelling units as defined by the Township zoning ordinance, when such buildings have restricted access through locked doors and a common corridor for access to the living units.
  3. All existing buildings constructing improvements which require Planning Commission approval as land developments, or conditional use zoning approval, or constitute a change of use group under the PA Uniform Construction Code, or zoning changes from residential to commercial or multiple family residential.

**Section 104 Type of Box:**

All Boxes shall be of an Underwriters Laboratory (UL) type and size approved by Township zoning and code officials, in a location specified by said officials prior to the issuance of the

permit to occupy. The applicable Fire Department shall provide a list of preferred specifications to the Township zoning and code officers. The code officials may refuse action until they have conferred with the Fire Department regarding any installation.

#### **Section 105 Contents**

All 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 buildings or such placement as directed by the Township Code Officials and Fire Department.

#### **Section 106 Locked Gates or Driveways**

Any locked gates or driveways which allow access to a multi-family residential building as described in Section 103 (2) or nonresidential building are required to place an Emergency Responder Rapid Access Entry Box on the said access point to allow immediate emergency access to the property. All locks are to be approved by the Code Officials and Fire Department.


#### **Section 107 Appeal**


Developments required to install an emergency responder rapid access box but who believe such installation may result in a greater threat to public health, safety and welfare than the benefits, may appeal the requirement to the Board of Supervisors. The Board may grant said appeals if the applicant can provide equal or greater means of ensuring emergency access (such as 24 hour/7 days/365 days on site security, or a building which is never locked or secured), or that the unique circumstances would create greater danger than the public safety benefit. The Board in hearing such an appeal may impose other conditions to ensure the safety of emergency responders.

This Ordinance shall be effective five (5) days after adoption. ENACTED AND ORDAINED the 5th day of March, 2019.

ATTEST

NEW SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP

  
Secretary

  
By the Chairman of the Board