

First Reading: June 6, 2023
Second Reading: June 13, 2023

ORDINANCE NO. 13986

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHATTANOOGA CITY CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 17, SECTION 17-3, 2018 INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE 912.3.1 AND BY ADDING A NEW SECTION 17-43, REQUIRING STRUCTURES TO HAVE A KEY LOCK BOX INSTALLED ON THE EXTERIOR OF THE STRUCTURE FOR FIRE SAFETY PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council have determined that the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Chattanooga are promoted by requiring certain structures to have a key lock box installed on the exterior of the structure to aid the Chattanooga Fire Department in gaining access to the structure when responding to calls for emergency service; and

WHEREAS, the key lock box system is being adopted nationally and will operate on a master key basis that will expedite entry into a structure during an emergency; and

WHEREAS, the key lock box system will eliminate forced entries into structures thereby avoiding costly and time-consuming efforts in gaining access to locked structures during an emergency; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chattanooga is authorized to pass this Ordinance pursuant to its police power and its home rule power.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. That Chattanooga City Code, Part II, Chapter 17, Section 17-3, be amended by revising the 2018 International Fire Code 912.3.1 to read as follows:

The City of Chattanooga requires locking FDC caps on all fire department connections (Intake & Discharge) for all water-based fire protection systems. Every new fire department connection for water-based fire protection systems shall be provided with a locking plug or cap of the type approved by the Fire Chief. On all new construction, these caps and/or plugs must be installed before the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.

SECTION 2. That Chattanooga City Code, Part II, Chapter 17, be amended by adding Section 17-43, as follows:

Sec. 17-43. Requiring Structures to have a Key Lock Box Installed on the Exterior of the Structure for Fire Safety Purposes.

Key Lock Box System.

- (a) The following structures shall be equipped with a key lock box at or near the main entrance or such other location required by the Fire Chief:
 - (1) All newly constructed commercial or industrial structures and places of assembly protected by an automatic suppression system, or such structures that are secured in a manner that restricts access during an emergency;
 - (2) All newly constructed multi-family residential structures that have restricted access through locked doors and have a common corridor for access to the living units;
 - (3) All newly constructed nursing care facilities;
 - (4) All new construction with sprinkler/standpipe connections to use FDC locking caps; and
 - (5) All existing structures undertaking additions, alterations, or repairs which shall cause the same to conform with the then current provisions of any of the building or property maintenance codes adopted by the City.
- (b) All newly constructed structures subject to this section shall have the key lock box installed and operational prior to the issuance of an occupancy permit.
- (c) The Fire Chief shall designate the type of key lock box system to be implemented within the City and shall have the authority to require all structures, including existing problematic occupancies to install a lock box, and to use the designated system.
- (d) The owner or operator of a structure required to have a key lock box shall, at all times, keep a key in the lock box that will allow for access to the structure.

- (e) The Fire Chief shall be authorized to implement rules and regulations for the use of the lock box system.
- (f) Any person who owns or operates a structure subject to this section shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Section 1-8 of this code for any violation of this section, provided that the minimum fine for a conviction for a violation of this section shall be \$50.00.

SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, That this Ordinance shall take effect two (2) weeks from and after its passage.

Passed on second and final reading: June 13, 2023



CHAIRPERSON

APPROVED: DISAPPROVED:



MAYOR

PAN/GG/mem/v5