

ORDINANCE NO.: 42-2013
INTRODUCED BY: Henry

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 1505.11 OF THE FIRE PREVENTION CODE PERTAINING TO A RESIDENTIAL LOCK BOX PROGRAM IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DIVISION OF FIRE'S EMERGENCY ENTRY ACTIONS.

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond Heights, Division of Fire, is from time to time called out to emergency situations at residences and finds access unavailable because of locked entry systems; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the program adopted by this Ordinance is to assist firefighters and paramedics in gaining rapid but pre-authorized entry into a residence in the event of an emergency, thereby saving valuable time and eliminating the need for forced entry; and

WHEREAS, the City of Richmond Heights, Division of Fire, will install a residential lock box which will be a heavy, metal safe-like box mounted on the door jamb of a residence. A key to the residence is secured inside the box and access to the box can only be obtained by a master key created specifically for the Division of Fire; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned master key is secured on Division of Fire apparatus and only accessible to Division of Fire personnel; and

WHEREAS, in the event of an emergency in which the occupant of the residence is unable to open the door for first responders, Division of Fire personnel or other first responders can use the master key to gain entry into the dwelling unit; and

WHEREAS, resident participation in this program and having a lock box can mitigate property damage due to forced entry; and

WHEREAS, an owner of a single-family home within the City of Richmond Heights may purchase a lock box through a vendor that has been designated and approved by the City of Richmond Heights, Division of Fire.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Ordained by the Council of the City of Richmond Heights, State of Ohio, that:

Section 1. Section 1505.11 of the Fire Prevention Code of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Richmond Heights shall be amended to read as follows:

1505.11 LOCK BOX REQUIRED.

(a) Other than at one-, two-, and three-family dwellings, an approved lock box shall be provided at all occupancies with a fire alarm system, automatic sprinkler system, or fire suppression system, or any other type of fire protection system that will notify the ~~fire department~~ Division of Fire of an activation of that system.

(b) The lock box will be mounted in an approved location.

(c) The box shall contain entry keys for the occupancy, including all interior doors and locks. The responsible person shall immediately notify the ~~Fire~~ Division of Fire and provide new keys any time a lock is changed or rekeyed, and that key is contained in the lock box. In the event the ~~Fire~~ Division of Fire responds to a call where a lock box is provided, and the access keys do not function properly, the occupancy shall be fined fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the first offense and one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each subsequent offense.

(d) Residential Lock Box Program

A residential lock box program is authorized and approved by the Council of the City of Richmond Heights, and, therefore, an owner of a single-family home within the City of Richmond Heights may, at the owner's sole discretion purchase a lock box through a vendor that has been designated and approved by the City of Richmond Heights, Division of Fire, and grant the Division of Fire personnel and other first responders pre-authorized entry to the home in the event of an emergency.

Section 2. All prior legislation inconsistent with this legislation in whole or in part is repealed to the extent necessary to avoid conflict with this legislation.

Section 3. It is found and determined that all formal actions of the Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of the Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall take effect at the earliest time allowed by law.

PASSED: _____

Daniel J. Ursu, Mayor

APPROVED: _____

ATTEST: _____

Betsy Traben
Clerk of Council

David H. Roche
President of Council