

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 9 REQUIRING STRUCTURES TO  
HAVE A KEY LOCK BOX INSTALLED ON THE EXTERIOR  
OF THE STRUCTURE FOR FIRE SAFETY PURPOSE**

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

WHEREAS, the key lock box system is 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 Town of Warrenton is authorized to pass this Ordinance pursuant to its police power and its home rule power.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWN OF WARRENTON, NORTH CAROLINA AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The Code of Ordinance of the Town of Warrenton is hereby amended with the addition of the following provisions as Section 91.10:

Sec. 91.10: 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) Commercial or industrial structures protected by an automatic alarm system or automatic suppression system, or such structures that are secured in a manner that restricts access during an emergency;
  - 2) Multi-family residential structures that have restricted access through locked doors and have a common corridor for access to the living units;
  - 3) Governmental structures and nursing care facilities;
  - 4) Any building or facility containing a quantity of hazardous materials which would require compliance with Title III of SARA (Superfund Amendment Reauthorization Act).
- 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. All structures in existence on the effective date of this section and subject to this section shall have one year

from the effective date of this section to have a key lock box installed and operational.

- C. The fire chief shall designate the type of key lock box system to be implemented within the town and Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) and shall have the authority to require all structures to use the designated system. Knox-Box Rapid Entry System is so designated and currently in use.
- D. The owner or operator of a structure required to have a key lock box shall, at all times, keep a key(s) in the lock box that will allow for access to the structure and all interior secure areas.
- E. The fire chief shall be authorized to implement rules and regulations for the use of the lock box system.
- F. Any persons who own or operate a structure subject to this section shall be subject to the penalties set forth in section 10.99 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 \$100.

Section 2: This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

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Walter M. Gardner, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Administrator/Clerk

Approved for Content

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Attorney