

## ORDINANCE NO. 641

### An Ordinance requiring a KnoxBox in Certain Buildings

WHEREAS, an ordinance is necessary to require certain commercial and residential buildings to install KnoxBox and KnoxBox FDC plugs; and,

WHEREAS, the benefits of installing KnoxBox include: providing immediate emergency access to firefighters; preventing costly forced entry damage; allowing undamaged doors to be re-secured after the emergency; protecting property, inventory, equipment and supplies from possible damage; and protecting firefighters, employees, and bystanders from possible injuries. The benefits of installing KnoxBox FDC plugs include; protecting sprinkler system against vandalism; protecting sprinkler system against foreign matter that could cause the system to malfunction; protecting building owner against brass theft and prevent frequent cap replacement.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the HANCEVILLE CITY COUNCIL of THE CITY of HANCEVILLE that the NEW AND/OR Revised General Municipal Ordinances of THE CITY of HANCEVILLE, and a new Fire prevention Section, be amended as follows:

#### Section 1: KNOXBOX

- A. KnoxBox Required for New Commercial Buildings.** All new commercial buildings shall have installed a KnoxBox, of a UL type and size approved by the HANCEVILLE FIRE Official, in locations specified by the HANCEVILLE FIRE Official prior to the issuance of the certificate of occupancy.
- B. KnoxBox Required for Existing Commercial Buildings.** All existing commercial buildings equipped with automatic fire detection and/or suppression system, and/or two or more stories, and/or buildings containing hazardous materials requiring the filing of a Tier II report shall have installed a KnoxBox, of a UL type and size approved by the HANCEVILLE FIRE Official, in a location specified by the HANCEVILLE FIRE Official within six (6) months of the effective date of this Ordinance.

- C. KnoxBox Required for New Multi-Family Residential Structures.** All New multi-family residential structures that have restricted access through locked doors and have an common corridor for access to the living units and/or that have elevators serving upper floors shall have installed a KnoxBox, of a UL type and size approved by the HANCEVILLE FIRE Official, in a location specified by the HANCEVILLE FIRE Official.
- D. KnoxBox Contents.** All KnoxBoxes shall contain clearly labeled keys with regard to their function and access into the property and/or building, and to any locked areas within the said building as well as any alarm panel codes. This can include: exterior entry door key, interior entry key(s), alarm panel codes, alarm devises (pull station) key, and alarm panel key as the HANCEVILLE FIRE Official may direct. Anytime the locks on the door for which the keys are stored in the KnoxBox are changed, the owner of the building must immediately notify the HANCEVILLE FIRE Official.
- E. KnoxBox FDC Plugs Required for New Commercial Buildings.** All new commercial buildings requiring a fire protection system shall have installed KnoxBox FDC Plugs, of a UL type and size approved by the HANCEVILLE FIRE Official, on all fire protection systems prior to the issuance of the permit of occupancy. Any building equipped with an automatic sprinkler system shall provide a Knox Box FDC Plugs on an outside most wall accessible to Hanceville Fire & Rescue personnel in case of emergency.
- F. KnoxBox FDC Plugs Required for Existing Commercial Buildings.** All existing commercial buildings equipped with an automatic fire suppression system, shall have installed KnoxBox FDC Plugs, of a UL type and size approved by the HANCEVILLE FIRE Official, in a location specified by the HANCEVILLE FIRE Official within six (6) months of the effective date of this Ordinance.
- G. Penalties.** Any property or building owner failing to comply with, or in violation of the terms of this Ordinance after notice from the City of Hanceville and the HANCEVILLE FIRE Official, shall be subject to a fine of Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$500.00). If the building is not brought into compliance within six (6) months, it shall be considered a new infraction subject to an additional Five Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$500.00) fine.

## **H. Definitions.**

A KnoxBox means a secure rapid entry system that is designed to be used by Hanceville Fire Department Personnel in the event of an emergency to gain entry into a structure by using the enclosed owner provided key(s).

KnoxBox FDC Plugs means a secure rapid entry system that is designed to be used by the Hanceville Fire Department Personnel in the event of an emergency to gain access to automatic sprinkler system FDC=s.

All boxes and plugs shall be UL (Underwriters Laboratories) certified and approved by the HANCEVILLE FIRE Official.


**I. KnoxBox Installation.** Generally, the KnoxBox is installed no lower than 4 feet and no higher than 5 feet to the finished grade and to the right of and within 4 foot of the main entry (front) door. However, building architectural features may adjust this general approach. All automatic sprinkler system FDC=s will be mounted on outside most wall approved by the HANCEVILLE FIRE Official. Deviation from the stated installation requirements must have prior approval from the HANCEVILLE FIRE Official.

**J. Purchasing a key vault (KnoxBox) or (KnoxBox FDC Plugs).** The HANCEVILLE FIRE Official shall determine which company shall be used to fulfill the requirements of this Ordinance.


**K. Definition of Commercial Building.** A commercial building shall be considered a building where industry, trade or business is carried on or where any process or operation, directly or indirectly, related to any industry, trade or business is carried on and where any person is employed by another for direct or indirect gain or profit.

**L. EXCEPTIONS to REQUIREMENT to INSTALL KNOXBOX.** Businesses or Properties that are open and staffed 24 hours, 365 days per year are exempt from this ordinance. Any business owner with 3 or more properties affected by this ordinance shall request extra time, to comply, in writing to the HANCEVILLE FIRE Official. All requests will be submitted to Hanceville Fire & Rescue, 112 Main Street, Hanceville, AL 35077. Requests will be reviewed by the HANCEVILLE FIRE Official and a written response given within 14 business days. **There will be no exceptions to the requirement of FDC Plugs.**

Done this the 28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.

  
Kenneth Nail, Mayor

Attest:

  
City Clerk