

ORDINANCE NO.

WRIGHTSTOWN TOWNSHIP, BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

**AN ORDINANCE OF WRIGHTSTOWN TOWNSHIP
AMENDING CHAPTER 4 BUILDINGS OF
THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO INSERT
A NEW PART 3 REQUIRING KNOX-
BOXES® IN COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS**

WHEREAS, Board of Supervisors desires to require Knox-Boxes® in new and existing commercial buildings in order to ensure fast and safe access by the fire department and emergency medical personnel;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby ENACTED and ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors of Wrightstown Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania that the Codified Ordinances of the Township are amended by amending Chapter 4 Buildings as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 4 Buildings of the Codified Ordinances is hereby amended by inserting a new Part 3 as follows:

Part 3 Installation of Knox-Box® Required

§ 4-301. Knox-Boxes®.

1. Knox-Box® Required for New Commercial Buildings. All new commercial buildings shall have installed a Knox-Box®, of an Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) type and size approved by the Chief Officer of the Fire Company having jurisdiction, in a location specified by the Township Code Enforcement Officer after consultation with the Fire Company having jurisdiction, prior to the issuance of the permit to occupy.
2. Knox-Box® Required for Existing Commercial Buildings with Improvements. All existing commercial buildings constructing improvements that require any land use or zoning approval shall have installed a Knox-Box®, of an Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) type and size approved by the Chief Officer of the Fire Company having jurisdiction, in a location specified by the Township Code Enforcement Officer after consultation with the Fire Company having jurisdiction, prior to the issuance of a construction permit and/or certification of occupancy.
3. Knox-Box® Required for Existing Commercial Buildings. All existing commercial buildings equipped with automatic fire detection and/or suppression systems shall have installed a Knox-Box®, of a UL type and size approved by the Chief Officer of the Fire Company have jurisdiction, in a location specified by the Township Code Enforcement Officer after consultation with the Fire Company having jurisdiction, within six months after receiving the annual fire inspection.
4. Knox-Box® Contents. All Knox-Boxes® shall contain labeled keys, easily identifiable

in the field, to provide access into the property and/or building and to any locked areas within the said building as the Chief Officer of the Fire Company having jurisdiction may direct. Each key shall be labeled with information to clearly identify the door(s) in which the key is to be used (i.e., front door, side door, business name, unit number, etc.). The operator of the building shall immediately notify the Chief Officer of the Fire Company having jurisdiction and/or Code Enforcement Officer if any key is changed and/or rekeyed. The new key shall be provided to the Township, and the new key shall be secured in the Knox-Box®.

5. Locked Gates of Driveways. Any locked gates of driveways which allow access to a commercial business are required to place a Fire Department access lock on the access point to allow immediate emergency access to the commercial property. All locks are to be approved by the Chief Officer of the Fire Company having jurisdiction.
6. The operator of the building shall provide emergency contact information to the Chief Officer of the Fire Company having jurisdiction and/or Code Enforcement Officer on the forms prescribed by the Township. Two emergency contacts shall be provided. Cards containing the emergency contact information shall also be kept in the Knox-Box®.
7. The operator of the building shall notify the Chief Officer of the Fire Company having jurisdiction if the Knox-Box® purchased or installed is alarmed. The operator shall provide the name and contact information of the alarm company to the Chief Officer of the Fire Company having jurisdiction and/or Code Enforcement Officer.

§4-302. Violations and Penalties.

Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate any provisions of this Part shall, upon conviction in a summary proceeding brought before a Magisterial District Judge under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, be guilty of a summary offense and shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000, plus costs of prosecution. In default of payment thereof, the defendant may be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 90 days. Each day or portion thereof that such violation continues or is permitted to continue shall constitute a separate offense, and each section of this Part that is violated shall also constitute a separate offense.

Section 2. Repealer. This Ordinance hereby repeals any provision inconsistent with this Ordinance now in effect or of other Ordinances, to the extent of such inconsistency. All other provisions of the Ordinances of Wrightstown Township, not inconsistent herewith, shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 3. Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable. If any provision of this Ordinance is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such determination shall have no effect on the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect five (5) days after adoption.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED this

day of

, A.D., 2024.

ATTEST:

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WRIGHTSTOWN TOWNSHIP**

Stacey Mulholland, Manager

Chester S. Pogonowski, Chairman

Jane B. Magne, Vice Chairman

Robert Lloyd, Treasurer/Member