



CITY OF OWENS CROSS ROADS ORDINANCE NO. 23-005

ORDINANCE TO BE AN ADDENDUM TO ORDINANCE NO. 22-016 TO REQUIRE KNOX BOXES AT COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS, MULTI-UNIT BUILDINGS, AND CERTAIN MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS WITHIN THE CITY OF OWENS CROSS ROADS

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF OWENS CROSS ROADS, ALABAMA AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, an ordinance is necessary to require certain commercial and residential buildings to install Knox Boxes; and,

WHEREAS, the benefits of installing Knox Boxes include providing immediate emergency access to firefighters leading to increasing Fire Department efficiency; preventing costly forced entry damage and allowing undamaged doors to be re-secured after the emergency; and protecting property, inventory, equipment and supplies as well as firefighters against possible injuries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Owens Cross Roads that the commercial building codes be revised to include the following:

- A. Definitions. "Knox Box" means a secure rapid entry system that is designed to be used by Fire Department Personnel in the event of an emergency to enter a structure by using the enclosed owner provided key(s). This box is usually mounted on the exterior of the building in a location that is specified by the City of Owens Cross Roads Fire Official. All boxes shall be UL (Underwriters Laboratories) certified and approved by City of Owens Cross Roads.
- B. All cost of the Knox Box, including but not limited to, purchase, installation, inspection fees, all maintenance and all monitoring cost shall be covered by the building owner.
 - a. Inspection fees are as follows:
 - i. \$75 at install
 - ii. \$75 at occupancy
- C. Knox Box Required for New Commercial Buildings. All new commercial buildings shall have installed a Knox Box, of a UL type and size approved by the City of Owens Cross Roads, in a location specified by the City of Owens Cross Roads Fire Official prior to the issuance of the permit of occupancy.
- D. Knox Box Required for Existing Commercial Buildings with Improvements. All existing commercial buildings constructing improvements that require Planning Commission approval shall have installed a Knox Box, of a UL type and size approved by the City of Owens Cross Roads, in a location specified by the City of Owens Cross Roads Fire Official prior to the issuance of the construction permit.
- E. Existing Commercial Buildings will be exempt unless either currently containing or if adding any automatic fire detection and/or suppression system then a Knox Box shall be added, of a UL type and size

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approved by the City of Owens Cross Roads, in a location specified by the City of Owens Cross Roads Fire Official within six (6) months of the effective date of this Ordinance or within 6 months of being added to the building.

- F. **Multi-Family Residential Structures.** All multi-family residential structures that have restricted access through locked doors and have a common corridor for access to the living units shall have installed a Knox Box, of a UL type and size approved by the City of Owens Cross Roads, in a location specified by the City of Owens Cross Roads Fire Official within six (6) months of the effective date of this Ordinance.
- G. **Knox Box Contents.** All Knox Boxes shall contain labeled keys, easily identified in the field to provide access into the property and/or building, and to any locked areas within the said building as determined by the City of Owens Cross Roads Fire Official. The contents must be kept current; any changes made to the availability of access either outside or inside the building must be reflected in the contents of the Knox Box within 10 business days.
- H. **Penalties.** Any property or building owner failing to comply with or found in violation of the terms of this Ordinance after notice from the City of Owens Cross Roads Fire Official, shall be subject to a fine or fines as listed below within a 12-month period. If fines are not paid or if offenses continue beyond the 3rd offense in a 12-month period, then the business license or occupancy certificate may be revoked.

1st Offense	\$ 50
2nd Offense	\$100
3rd Offense	\$200


ADOPTED THIS 14th DAY OF March 2023.

Approved By:

Attest By:



Tony K. Craig, Mayor



Christie D. Eason, City Clerk



City of Owens Cross Roads, Alabama, certificate of publication.

This is to certify that Ordinance No. 23-005, City of Owens Cross Roads, Alabama, was published by posting on the City website, and on at least five (5) bulletin boards within the City.

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