

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF "CENTERVILLE" GEORGIA AMENDING THE CITY ORDINANCE CHAPTER 24 "FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION," ADDING ARTICLE VI. "KNOX BOX RAPID ENTRY SYSTEM," SECTIONS 24-291 THROUGH 24-310 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the City of Centerville, as provided for by the laws of the State of Georgia and as authorized by City Charter, Section 9, constitute the legislative department of the City's government; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council, as the City's legislative body and in accordance with the City Charter, have full power and authority over all matters related to the security, health, and well-being of the citizens of Centerville; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centerville Mayor and Council, along with the Centerville Fire Department recognize the importance and need of providing rapid entry into locked buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, delays in the fire department's ability to gain rapid entry into locked buildings reduces an occupant's chance of survival in a fire; delays a sick person's or injured fire survivor's access to prompt pre-hospital care; increases the chance of substantial property damage; and compromises firefighter safety; then

**THEREFORE**, be it ordained that the Centerville Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by adding Article VI. "Knox Box Rapid Entry System", Sections 24-291 through 24-310 as follows:

**CHAPTER 24 – FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION**

**ARTICLE VI – KNOX RAPID ENTRY SYSTEM**

**DIVISION 1 – GENERALLY**

**Secs. 24-205. – 24-290. – Reserved.**

**DIVISION 2 – KNOX BOX**

**Sec. 24-291. – 24-310**

**Sec. 24-291. – Purpose and intent.**

The City of Centerville Fire Department recognizes the importance and need of providing rapid entry into locked buildings. Delays in the fire department gaining rapid entry reduces the occupant's chance of survival in a fire, the chance for substantial property damage increases because of delays in gaining entry to the structure and

firefighter safety and survival may be compromised because of said delays. Additionally, delays in providing prompt pre-hospital care to the sick and injured as a result of locked/secured structure may/will have a negative outcome on patient recovery. To assist in gaining entry into locked/secured facilities/structures, the City of Centerville Fire Department hereby adopts a Rapid Entry System utilizing the "Knox Company" Knox-Box and/or 1.5" to 2.5" Locking FDC Plug.

**Sec. 24-292. - For commercial, residential, and other locations with restricted access through locked doors and gates.**

- (a) New structures not completed or otherwise in existence as of June 19, 2018 shall be equipped with a key lockbox at or near the main entrance or other such location required by the Fire Marshal before a certificate of occupancy or business license shall be issued.
- (b) Existing structures that are classified as any of the following shall be equipped with a key lockbox at or near the main entrance or such other location required by the Fire Marshal on or before January 1, 2019:
  - (1) Commercial or industrial structures protected by an automatic fire alarm system and/or automatic suppression system that is secured in a manner that restricts access during an emergency;
  - (2) Multifamily residential structures comprised of three (3) or more units in which access to the building or common areas or mechanical or electrical rooms within the building is denied through locked doors;
  - (3) Commercial structures comprised of three (3) or more units;
  - (4) Any building or facility containing any quantity of hazardous materials, which would require compliance with Title III of SARA (Superfund Amendment Reauthorization Act).
  - (5) Nursing care facilities;
  - (6) Governmental structures;
  - (7) Communities in which access to the community is denied through locked gates;
  - (8) Educational and Daycare facilities
- (b) All newly constructed structures, communities, or complexes subject to this section shall have the Knox-Box, a 1.5" to 2.5" Locking FDC Plug, and/or means to access community gates, operational prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.
- (c) All structures, communities, or complexes in existence shall have the Knox-Box, a 1.5" to 2.5" Locking FDC Plug, and/or means to access community gates, installed and operational within 90 days of being notified of the ordinance from which this section is derived.

- (d) The fire marshal shall designate the type of Knox-Box, a 1.5" to 2.5" Locking FDC Plug, and/or means to access community gates, to be implemented within the city and shall have the authority to require all structures to use the designated system.
- (e) The owner or operator of a structure required to have a KNOX Key lockbox shall, at all times, keep keys in the lockbox that will allow for access to the following:
  - (1) Keys to locked points of egress, whether on the interior or exterior of such buildings
  - (2) Keys to locked mechanical equipment rooms
  - (3) Keys to locked electrical rooms
  - (4) Key to elevator controls
  - (5) Keys to the other areas as directed by the City of Centerville Fire Department.
- (f) The fire marshal shall be authorized to implement rules and regulations for the use of the Knox-Box, a 1.5" to 2.5" Locking FDC Plug, and/or means to access community gates.
- (g) Any person who owns or operates a structure, community, or complex subject to this section shall be subject to the penalties set forth in all sections of this Code for any violation of this section; provided that the maximum fine for a conviction for a violation of this section shall be \$500.00.
- (h) All requests for the designated Knox-Box, a 1.5" to 2.5" Locking FDC Plug, and/or means to access community gates, shall be coordinated through the Fire Marshal's Office and have the location approved on each site.
- (i) This article shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

#### **Sec. 24-294. – Installation and Location**

- (a) All "Knox Boxes" (and or Knox Locking Vaults) for new construction shall be recess mounted into the building/structure at a height of not less than 6' above the ground (surface grade) nor more than 8' above the ground (surface grade). The "face plate" of the "Knox" box shall be flush with the exterior façade of the structure/building. All "Knox" boxes (and or Knox Locking Vaults) shall be located next to the main entrance (or as close as reasonably possible to) on the address side of the structure/building or at such other location as required by the Fire Marshal.
- (b) All "Knox Boxes" (and or Knox Locking Vaults) for existing structures shall be mounted on the building/structure at a height of not less than 6' above the ground (surface grade) nor more than 8' above the ground (surface grade). All "Knox"

boxes (and or Knox Locking Vaults) shall be located next to the main entrance (or as close as reasonably possible to) on the address side of the structure/building or at such other location as required by the Fire Marshal.

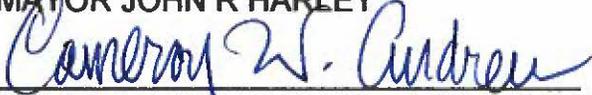
**Secs. 24-295 - 24-310. - Reserved.**

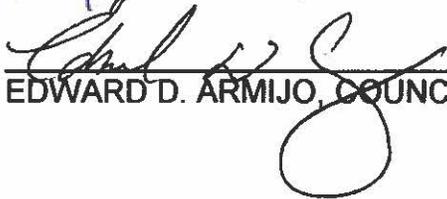
**CONFLICTING ORDINANCES:** In the event that any ordinance, or any part thereof, of the City of "Centerville", Georgia is in conflict herewith, this ordinance shall have preference.

**SEVERABILITY:** If any provisions of this ordinance be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions which can be given effect without the invalid provision, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

**SO ORDAINED,** this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2018, by majority vote of the Governing Authority at a Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of Centerville with a quorum being present at the meeting.

**CITY OF "CENTERVILLE", GEORGIA**

BY:   
MAYOR JOHN R HARLEY  
  
CAMERON W. ANDREWS, COUNCILMAN

JUSTIN WRIGHT, COUNCILMAN  
  
J. MICHEAL EVANS, COUNCILMAN  
  
EDWARD D. ARMIJO, COUNCILMAN

ATTEST   
KRISTA BEDINGFIELD, CITY CLERK