ORDINANCE NO. 2024-22

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 46, OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE ENTITLED "FIRE PREVENTION" AND SPECIFICALLY ESTABLISHING SECTION 46-7.1, ENTITLED "KNOX BOX"

WHEREAS, frequently the public safety departments of the Township of Barnegat are called to the scene of activated alarms but are unable to obtain access to structures; and

WHEREAS, the lack of access often leads to the necessity of members of the Fire Department or Police Department having to forcibly gain entry with consequential damage to property and risk of injury to the members of those departments; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance shall establish that it will require a Knox Box be installed at New Commercial Buildings, Existing Commercial Buildings, and Multi-Family Residential Buildings; and

WHEREAS, the simple installation of a security device commonly known as a "Knox Box" would eliminate such damage and risk of injury by allowing Police and Fire responders access to a key to the property and the Township Committee finds that the installation of such security boxes would be of minimal cost to the owners of properties with alarm systems.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Barnegat is as follows:

SECTION I

There is hereby established in Chapter 46-7, "Fire Prevention," of the Code of the Township of Barnegat, Section 46-7.1, entitled "Knox Boxes," which shall read:

Knox Boxes

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 gain entry into 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 local Fire Official. All boxes shall be UL certified and approved by the Local Enforcing Authority (LEA).

B. **Knox Boxes Required for Commercial Buildings**. All commercial buildings constructed or substantially improved on or after January 1, 2025 shall have installed a Knox Box, of a UL type and size approved by the Local Enforcing Authority (LEA), in a location specified by the Township Fire Official prior to the issuance of the certificate of occupancy.

C. **Knox Box Required for Existing Commercial Buildings.** All commercial buildings in existence at the time of the adoption of this Ordinance which are equipped with automatic fire detection and/or suppression system shall have installed a Knox Box, of a UL type and size approved by the Local Enforcing Authority (LEA), in a located specified by the Township Fire Official within six (6) months of the effective date of this ordinance.

D. **Knox Box Required for 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 Local Enforcing Authority (LEA), in a location specified by the Township Fire Official within six (6) months of the effective date of this ordinance.

E. **Purchase and Installation.** Knox Boxes may be purchased online through www.knoxbox.com, identifying Barnegat Fire Company #1, Station 11 as the servicing company in area code 08005. The fire company must be contacted to approve a non "KNOX" company device prior to installation. Devices substantially similar to Knox Boxes shall be acceptable for compliance with this Ordinance upon Fire Department approvals.

F. **Knox Box Contents.** All Knox Box shall contain labeled keys, Key-card, Key-fob, and any other key type device used for access to locked areas of the building. The key ring shall be easily identified in the field to provide access into the property and/or building, and to any locked areas within the said building as the Local Enforcing Authority (LEA) may direct.

G. **Penalties.** Any property or building owner failing to comply with, or in violation of the terms of this ordinance, after notice from the Township Code Enforcement Officer, shall be subject to a fine of one hundred dollars and zero cents ($100.00).

SECTION II

Repealer. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are repealed to the extent of such inconsistency. The Clerk of the Township is authorized to renumber and/or re-codify any sections affected by such repeal to the extent consistent with this Ordinance.

SECTION III

Severability. If any word, phrase, clause, section or provision of this Ordinance shall be found by any Court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, illegal or unconstitutional such word, phrase, clause, section or provision shall be severable from the balance of the Ordinance and the remainder of the Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION IV

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall take effect after second reading and publication as required by law

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the foregoing ordinance was introduced and passed by the Township Committee on first reading at a meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Barnegat on the **3rd day of September, 2024**, and will be considered for second and final passage at a meeting of the Township Committee to be held on the **1st day of October, 2024, at 10:00 AM** at the Municipal Building located at 900 West Bay Avenue, Barnegat, New Jersey, at which time and place any persons desiring to be heard upon the same will be given the opportunity to be so heard.

Donna M. Manno, RMC,
Municipal Clerk