

**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

ORDINANCE NO. 1036

AN ORDINANCE OF WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP TO REQUIRE THE INSTALLATION OF EMERGENCY ENTRY KEY BOXES FOR ALL PROPERTIES IN WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP DESIGNATED BY THE TOWNSHIP FIRE MARSHAL AS REQUIRING SAME, AND SPECIFYING THE LOCATION AND CONTENTS OF ALL EMERGENCY ENTRY KEY BOXES; REPEALING ALL INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES OF PARTS THEREOF; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Whitemarsh Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, has enacted the Code of Ordinances of Whitemarsh Township which contains, *inter alia*, provisions governing fire protection and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Township Fire Marshal has recommended to the Board of Supervisors that certain properties within Whitemarsh Township be required to install an emergency entry key box on their premises to allow a responding fire department, ambulance, or police access to keys to gain entry into a building without having to destroy property to gain entry; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Marshal has recommended the location and contents of all emergency entry key boxes; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has determined that it is in the best interests of the health, safety, and welfare of the residents and property owners of Whitemarsh Township to accept the recommendations of the Township Fire Marshal and require the installation of emergency entry key boxes on properties deemed by the Fire Marshal to require them;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it **ENACTED** and **ORDAINED** by the Board of Supervisors of Whitemarsh Township as follows:

I. Chapter 51A of the Code of Ordinances of Whitemarsh Township is amended to add a new Section 51A-4 as follows:

Section 51A-4. Emergency Entry Key Boxes

A. Emergency entry key boxes shall be installed on the premises of any new and existing properties within Whitemarsh Township deemed necessary by the Township Fire Marshal or his or her designee.

B. Emergency entry key boxes shall likewise be required to be installed at the entrance feature to a gated community, development, or property, if required by the Township Fire Marshal or his or her designee.

C. The make and model of emergency entry key boxes, and the location at which each box is to be installed, shall be determined by the Township Fire Marshal or his or her designee.

D. If a property has more than one building on site, additional emergency entry key boxes may be required to be installed as determined by the Whitmarsh Township Fire Marshal or his or her designee.

E. The mounting height of all emergency entry key boxes shall be five feet (5') to the top of the box, and the mounting location shall be to the right of the main entrance of the building. If that location is unable to be used, the Whitmarsh Township Fire Marshal or his or her designee will select another location for the emergency entry key box.

F. Emergency entry key boxes shall contain the following items, as may be applicable, all of which shall be clearly identified:

(1) Keys to all locked exterior and interior doors, fences, gates, and other locked accesses to the property.

(2) Keys to all locked rooms housing fire alarm and suppression equipment.

(a) Fire alarm pull stations keys, if applicable, shall also be added to the emergency entry key box.

(b) Keys for any padlocks on suppression systems shall also be added to the emergency entry key box.

(3) Keys to locked mechanical rooms, utility rooms, and electrical rooms.

(4) Keys to locked elevator control rooms.

(5) Any other keys or items required by the Whitmarsh Township Fire Marshal or his or her designee.

G. Key box maintenance. The operator of a building that has an emergency entry key box shall immediately notify the Whitmarsh Township Fire Marshal or his or her designee and provide the new key where a lock is changed or rekeyed. The key to such lock shall be secured in the emergency entry key box.

(1) Keys must be checked annually with the Whitemarsh Township Fire Marshal's Office.

H. Enforcement: This Section 51A-4 will be enforced through the Township's fire inspection program, any change of building ownership, and/or new tenant use and occupancy inspections.

I. Violations and Penalties. The Township Fire Marshal or his or her designee shall enforce the provisions of this Section 51A-4. Any person or entity that violates the provisions of this Section 51A-4, if found guilty of a summary offense by a Magisterial District Judge in the same manner provided for the enforcement of summary offenses under the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall pay a fine of not more than \$1,000.00 or undergo imprisonment for not more than 90 days.

II. All ordinances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of the inconsistency.

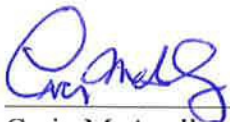
III. The provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable. If any provision of this Ordinance is declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such determination shall have no effect on the remaining provisions of this Ordinance or on the provisions of the Code of Ordinances of Whitemarsh Township.

IV. This Ordinance shall become effective on the earliest date allowed by the Whitemarsh Township Charter.

ENACTED and **ORDAINED** this 14th day of March 2024.

ATTEST:

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP**



Craig McAnally, Secretary



By: Fran McCusker, Chair