

ORDINANCE NO. C-20-22

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, AMENDING SECTION 13-58 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA ENTITLED "FIRE DETECTING AND EXTINGUISHING APPLIANCES REQUIRED IN OR ON DESIGNATED BUILDINGS AND PREMISES; SIAMESE CONNECTIONS," BY ESTABLISHING THIRD PARTY ELECTRONIC REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR INSPECTIONS OF FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCE PROVISIONS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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WHEREAS, the City is obligated to enforce the provisions of the Florida Fire Prevention Code, which includes reviewing periodic inspection reports of life safety systems;

WHEREAS, up to 40% of the life safety systems fail to get the required monthly and semi-annual inspections conducted;

WHEREAS, the current system employed by the City is an outdated and inefficient manual paper-based system and having a cloud-based reporting software will facilitate a more efficient method to review, track and follow-up on life safety system deficiencies for property owners and occupants;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the public to provide the City with timely and efficient data to ensure that Fire and Life Safety systems are being inspected, tested and maintained in operable conditions to save lives and properties; and

WHEREAS, maintaining accessible and reliable data from the third party inspections reports is beneficial in maintaining the required ISO, Public Protection Classification rating of Class 1.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That Section 13-58. - Fire Detecting and Extinguishing Appliances Required in or on Designated Buildings and Premises; Siamese Connections, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is hereby amended to read as follows:

CODING: Words, symbols, and letters ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words, symbols, and letters underlined are additions.

**Sec. 13-58. – Fire Detecting and Extinguishing Appliances Required in or on Designated Buildings and Premises; Third-Party Reporting Requirements for all Fire Protection Systems; Siamese Connections:**

- (a) Every mercantile and industrial establishment, warehouse, school, place of assembly, convalescent home, old age hospital, place of detention, office building, hotel, motel, rooming house, cooperative apartment, multifamily house, townhouse, condominium, industrial building, restaurant, club, and like establishment, public building, service station, garage, and locations where flammable liquids are stored or dispensed, shall be provided with suitable fire extinguishing devices or particular appliances as specified by the Florida Building Code, or chief of the fire-rescue department, or any officer or member designated by him. Automatic smoke or heat detectors shall be required by the fire chief or his designated representative when, in his opinion, due to the size, type of construction, special feature, or other hazards not specifically covered in the Florida Building Code, a hazardous condition requires some such safety device to make the building fire safe. Partial or full standpipe, sprinkler and/or fire alarm systems shall be required by the fire chief or his designated representative in occupancies, which have special hazards not covered specifically by the Florida Building Code. Every sprinkler system, standpipe system, fire alarm system and other protective extinguishing system or appliances which have been installed in any building, whether required by the Florida Building Code or not, shall be maintained and regulated in a safe condition. Compliance with the recommendations of the National Fire Protection Association is prima facie evidence of such maintenance and regulation. Any person aggrieved by a decision of the fire chief or his representative shall have ten (10) days within which to appeal to the board of rules and appeals in accordance with section 203 of the Florida Building Code.
- (b) All fire alarm systems, fire sprinkler systems, fixed fire protection systems, and any other fire protection systems inspections, testing, and maintenance reports required to be submitted to the fire-rescue department in accordance with the Florida Fire Prevention Code (FFPC) and its referenced standards and the Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals (BORA) amendments to the FFPC, shall be submitted electronically through a web-based software system approved by the City.
- (b) The siamese connection on a building must be kept accessible to the fire-rescue department at all times. If, in the opinion of the fire chief or his designated representative, a building requires more siamese connections than the Florida Building Code specifies, due to unusual size, construction or special hazards, he may

require additional connections. If in a parking area, there shall be a space four (4) feet on both sides of the centerline of the siamese that must be kept open at all times, and posted "No Parking, Fire-rescue department Connection." There shall be no obstructions planted or constructed in front of the siamese connection at any time. Any person aggrieved by a decision of the fire chief or his representative shall have ten (10) days within which to appeal to the board of rules and appeals in accordance with section 203 of the Florida Building Code.

SECTION 2. That if any clause, section or other part of this Ordinance shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby, but shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith, be and the same are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect ten days from the date of final passage.

PASSED FIRST READING this 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020.

PASSED SECOND READING this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

ATTEST:

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Mayor  
DEAN J. TRANTALIS

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City Clerk  
JEFFREY A. MODARELLI