

ORDINANCE NO. __03-2014

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SALEM, WESTMORELAND
COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, PROVIDING FOR THE PLACEMENT OF KEYED
ENTRY SYSTEMS FOR AUTHORIZED STRUCTURES WITHIN THE
TOWNSHIP**

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Salem is empowered to enact ordinances for the protection of the continuing health, safety and welfare of residents of the Township; and,

WHEREAS, the Salem Township Volunteer Fire Departments have expressed concerns with their ability to enter commercial properties, churches, certain multi-family residential dwellings and/or other single-family residential dwellings in cases of fire or other emergencies due to the lack of a common key entry system permitting them ingress and egress to same; and,

WHEREAS, the Salem Township Volunteer Fire Departments have requested the Township to enact an Ordinance enabling owners of commercial properties, churches and multi-family dwellings and/or other single-family dwellings which do not have immediate access from an exterior door or other single-family dwellings, to provide a common key, rapid entry key box to facilitate entry onto the property in cases of emergency; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Salem hereby enact this Ordinance to enable the owners of all commercial or residentially occupied properties within the Township to provide a common key, rapid entry key box for use by the Salem Township Volunteer Fire Department and other emergency service providers in the event of emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, WITH THE FOREGOING RECITALS BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE THERETO, THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SALEM, WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, HEREBY ORDAINS AND ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

Section I – Findings and Purpose: The Board of Supervisors of the Township of Salem hereby finds that the lack of a high speed, common key secured entry system in those structures herein defined (i) impedes access by fire fighters and other emergency service personnel, (ii) unreasonably extends response times, (iii) results in the increased risk of

damage to property and harm to the residents of the Township of Salem, and (iv) poses a threat to the public health, safety and welfare. The purpose of this section is to enable owners of commercial properties, churches and multi-family dwellings to provide and utilize rapid entry key box systems to enable firemen and other emergency personnel to have immediate access to commercial properties, churches and/or residential dwellings which do not have immediate access from an outside entry or other residentially occupied structures.

Section II - Definitions:

Authorized Structure – Any structure authorized to have and utilize a common key rapid entry key box pursuant to the terms of this Ordinance. An “Authorized structure” for purposes of this Ordinance shall be deemed to include, but be limited to, all commercial buildings housing a commercial enterprise within the Township of Salem regardless of where it is located, all churches, a residential dwelling unit which does not have an independent exterior entry through a ground level door and any multi-family dwelling having a unit or units accessed through a common hallway or entryway, and/or any other residentially occupied structure or single-family dwelling.

Common Key Rapid Entry Key Box – A fireproof and secure box or other structure affixed to the outside of a structure, approved for use by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Salem, containing keys for the entry of all units within the structure and having a single entry key in common with all other entry boxes in the Township of Salem.

Section III - Implementation: The owner of any Authorized Structure may install and maintain a common key rapid entry key box on the exterior of the structure at or near a common entry door, in a location approved by Chief of the Salem Township Volunteer Fire Department servicing the structure’s area, to provide access to interior units by the Salem Township Fire Department and/or other emergency service personnel.

Section IV - Box Type and Responsibility for Cost and Expense: The type of common key rapid entry key box installed shall be approved by agreement between the Salem Township Volunteer Fire Departments and have a common entry key in common with all other common key rapid entry key boxes within the Township. The cost of acquisition and installation of the common key rapid entry key box shall be paid by the owner of the Authorized Structure.

Section V - Access keys: The owner of any Authorized Structure who utilizes a Common Key Rapid Entry Key Box hereunder, shall provide, place and keep copies of keys to the required structure and all units within the required structure in the common key rapid

entry key box and shall clearly label each key with the door and number of each unit such key opens and/or serves. The Chief of the Salem Township Volunteer Fire Department for the area in which the structure is located shall obtain the common key for the box from the manufacturer of same.

Section VI – Voluntary Participation: No owner of any Authorized Structure, or any other owner of property in the Township of Salem shall be required to provide or otherwise pay for or install a common key rapid entry key box on their property. The installation of any common key rapid entry key box shall be voluntary and shall be coordinated through the Salem Township Volunteer Fire Companies. Other than the authorization of the Volunteer Fire Companies to make common key rapid entry key boxes available for property owners within the Township, the Township assumes no responsibility or liability regarding the use, operation, maintenance or control over such key boxes.

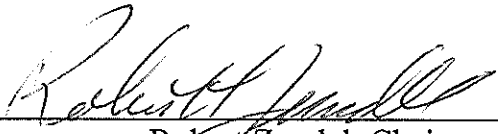
THIS ORDINANCE IS DULY ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SALEM AT A DULY ADVERTISED PUBLIC MEETING HELD THE _18th DAY OF JUNE 2014, AND SHALL TAKE EFFECT ON JULY 1, 2014.

ATTEST:

THE TOWNSHIP OF SALEM
By:



Lynn Cain, Secretary-Treasurer



Robert Zundel, Chairman
Salem Township Board of Supervisors