

**AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING THE INSTALLATION OF A FIRE DEPARTMENT
CONNECTION INDICATOR LIGHT FOR USE BY THE WEST ORANGE FIRE
DEPARTMENT AND ADDING SECTION 5 TO CHAPTER 18 OF THE MUNICIPAL
CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE**

WHEREAS, the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Township of West Orange (“Township”) are promoted by requiring certain structures to install a connection indicator light on the exterior of the structure to aid the Township Fire Department in locating Fire Department Connections (“FDCs”) in emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, the Township Fire Department can reduce the potential for rapid extension of fire and other hazardous conditions and decrease dangers for firefighters by quick access to FDCs; and

WHEREAS, the Township Construction Official and Fire Official have reviewed this ordinance and recommend its passage; and

WHEREAS, the Township is authorized to pass this Ordinance pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:48-2, and pursuant to the Township’s police powers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of West Orange in the County of Essex and the State of New Jersey, that there should be created a Chapter 18, Section 5 of the Revised General Ordinances of the Township, entitled “Fire Department Connection Indicator Light,” which shall provide as follows:

-5 FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION INDICATOR LIGHT

- .1 The owner of a new structure, an existing structure undergoing construction requiring a new or revised Certificate of Occupancy, or an existing structure undergoing a change of use, having a sprinkler and/or standpipe connection either attached to or within five feet of said structure, shall be required to install, maintain and illuminate a weatherproof light fixture containing a 100 watt light source, red in color, mounted on the structure in the immediate vicinity of the sprinkler or standpipe connection at a height of seven feet above the connection. The exact final

placement and design of the light fixture shall be set forth on plans submitted to and approved by the Fire Chief or his/her designee and the Construction Official.

- .2 The owner of a new structure, an existing structure undergoing construction requiring a new or revised Certificate of Occupancy, or an existing structure undergoing a change of use, having a sprinkler and/or standpipe connection remotely located at a distance in excess of five feet of said structure shall cause to be placed, installed, maintained and illuminated a freestanding, weatherproof light fixture containing a 100 watt light source, red in color, mounted immediately behind the fixture at a height of four feet. The exact final placement and design of the light fixture shall be set forth on plans submitted to and approved by the Fire Chief or his/her designee and the Construction Official.
- .3 In certain cases, based upon extraordinary conditions, the Fire Chief, or his/her designee, shall have the right to grant a waiver of the requirements imposed by this section, on an individual basis; however, some form of other substitute identification will be required.
- .4 The owner of any structure in the Township which falls within the requirements of this action shall cause the structure to be brought into compliance with this Section within one (1) year from its effective date, or 60 days from receipt of written notice from the Fire Chief, or his/her designee, whichever is sooner.
- .5 Any property owner failing to comply with this Ordinance shall be subject to a fine of not more than Three Hundred (\$300) Dollars for each day of violation or non-compliance.

Robert D. Parisi, Mayor

Susan McCartney, Council President

Karen J. Carnevale, Municipal Clerk

Introduced: August 12, 2014

Adopted: September 9, 2014

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Authority for this proposed legislation is derived from N.J.S.A. 40:48-2, entitling municipalities to make and enforce ordinances and regulations it deems necessary and proper for the protection of persons and property, and for the preservation of the public health, safety and welfare of the municipality and its inhabitants.

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the Township's citizens and business owners by allowing the Township Fire Department to locate and gain access to Fire Department Connections ("FDCs") as quickly as possible during emergency situations. FDCs are intended to provide sprinkler systems with a means to receive water support from a Fire Department pumping apparatus. This ability is necessary when sprinkler systems need supplemental water support, and when events such as floods, hurricanes, and similar events interrupt utility-provided water because of loss of power to pumping stations or damage to the water supply infrastructure piping. If these events were to interrupt the automatic water supply to a sprinkler system, then the only possibility of providing water to the sprinkler would be through the FDC. By enabling quick access to FDCs, the proposed legislation will reduce the risk of rapid extension of fire and other hazardous conditions. Such a reduction will decrease dangers to firefighters, and help minimize the spread of property damage.