

COMMISSIONERS OF SHARPTOWN

FIRE HYDRANT AND FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION

ORDINANCE #100

AN ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE PROPERTY OWNERS OF PROPERTY THAT CONTAIN FIRE HYDRANTS AND FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTIONS REMAIN FREE OF OBSTRUCTIONS.

WHEREAS, the Commissioners of the Town of Sharptown, Maryland desire to ensure that access to fire hydrants and fire department connections within the limits of the Town of Sharptown are, at all times, accessible by emergency services personnel.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWN OF SHARPTOWN, MARYLAND that a Fire Hydrant and Fire Department Connection Ordinance be enacted as hereinafter set forth:

SECTION 1.

Obstructions Prohibited.

A. Fire Hydrants. No fire hydrant shall be obscured from the adjacent roadway or access way, or obstructed by any planting, wall, fence, utility box, berm, or other form of visual screening or obstruction; and further, no obstruction shall be located within five (5) feet of the front or within three (3) feet of the sides or rear of such equipment.

B. Fire Department Connections. No fire department connections shall be obscured from the adjacent roadway or access way, or obstructed by any planting, wall, fence, utility box, berm, or other form of visual screening or obstruction; and further, no obstruction shall be located within five (5) feet of the front or within three (3) feet of the sides or rear of such equipment.

SECTION 2.

Violations and Enforcement.

A. Removal of obstruction by Town. Where practicable, the Town shall remove the obstruction. The Code Enforcement Officer shall issue a warning letter of the violation which:

- a. States that the violation must be removed from the property within ten (10) days of the date of the notice;
- b. States that the Code Enforcement Officer shall conduct a re-inspection of the property after ten (10) days have passed since the date of the notice;
- c. States that, upon re-inspection of the premises, if the violation stated in the warning letter has not been corrected, then the Town may remove the obstruction at the owner's expense and that the costs shall be assessed against the owner, and shall be collected in the same manner as real property taxes;
- d. States that an administration fee to be set by separate resolution shall be imposed and collected as real property taxes.

B. Enforcement by municipal infraction. If not practicable for the Town to remove the obstruction, the Town shall enforce this ordinance by issuing a municipal infraction. If enforcing this ordinance by municipal infraction, the Town Code Enforcement Officer shall issue a warning letter of the violation which:

- a. Notifies the owner of the property of the violation;
- b. States that the Code Enforcement Officer shall conduct a re-inspection of the property after ten (10) days have passed since the date of the notice;
- c. States that failure to comply with the removal notice will result in a municipal infraction being issued in accordance with Sharptown Ordinance No. 39 to the owner of the property.

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWN OF SHARPTOWN that this Ordinance shall take effect from and after the date of its final passage.

The above ordinance was introduced and read to the Commissioners of the Town of Sharptown, Maryland, at a meeting held on _____ day of _____, 2023, and finally passed at a meeting held on the _____ day of _____, 2023, having been published as required by law.

ATTEST:

Judy Schneider,
Town Clerk

P. Douglas Gosnell,
President

Jerry L. Bennett,
Chairperson

Cecil Bradley,
Commissioner

Matthew V. Schneider,
Commissioner

George Henry,
Commissioner