

Local Law No. ____ of 2023

**A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND THE HUDSON CITY CODE §143-7
RELATING TO LOCK BOXES**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HUDSON AS
FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1. TITLE This Local Law shall be known as Local Law No. ____ for the year 2023.

SECTION 2. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS

The Common Council of the City of Hudson recognizes the importance of providing the City's Fire Department and emergency services rapid entry into locked buildings. An emergency access system provides for the placement, in secured, locked containers, of keys to important areas within a structure and information that may be vital and necessary to the health, safety, and welfare of the occupants and responding emergency crews. The Common Council finds that the delay in gaining entry can result in substantial property damages along with delays in providing lifesaving or other medical procedures as well as an increased danger for emergency services personnel and building occupants.

SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the Common Council of the City of Hudson to amend Chapter 143, Section 143-7 of the City Code to provide for a mandatory emergency access system in certain structures to allow for the City of Hudson Fire Department and emergency personnel to gain rapid entry to locked buildings and to minimize the potential for substantial property damage, delays in providing lifesaving or other medical procedures and the incidents of increased danger for emergency services personnel and building occupants that may occur if emergency access is not provided.

SECTION 4. STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

This local law is authorized by the Municipal Home Rule Law (Chapter 36-a of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York).

SECTION 5. AMENDMENTS. Chapter 143 of the Hudson City Code, Section 143-7 is hereby DELETED and REPLACED with the following:

A. Mandatory Lock Box Program. The City of Hudson shall administrate a mandatory lock box program for all multi-family, short term lodging rentals, and commercial structures in the City of Hudson for the purpose of allowing access to the building by the City of Hudson Fire Department and/or emergency services personnel. A secured Knox Rapid Access System box, or other brand so designated by the City of Hudson Fire Department, shall be affixed to the building by a contractor or homeowner. The lock box shall contain keys or, where applicable, magnetic cards to the exterior doors, keys or magnetic card for all mechanical equipment and

sprinkler control rooms, electrical rooms, fire alarm control panels, elevator rooms or controls, elevator keys, and any other area of the building as directed by the City Fire Department, along with a scaled floor plan of the building. . The key contained in the lock box will be used. Keys to the lock boxes shall be kept in each City of Hudson Fire Department vehicle, locked in a KNOX key control unit.

B. Time for Compliance. All existing buildings to which this section applies shall comply with the lock box requirements set forth in Section 143-7(A) within 24 months of the effective date of this section. All new construction covered by Chapter 143, Section 143-7, including buildings currently under construction as of the effective date of this section, for which no certificate of occupancy has been issued, shall comply immediately.

C. Penalties for Offense. In addition to the penalties set forth in Section 143-15 of this Chapter, it shall be unlawful for any person to tamper, meddle, deface, vandalize, or interfere in any way with an emergency access system.

Section 6. Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this Local Law shall be adjudged by any Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined to its operation in said clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this Local Law.

Section 7. Effective Date. This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon passage and filing with the Secretary of State.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon its filing in the office of the Secretary of State in accordance with Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

Introduced _____

Seconded _____

Approved

By _____

Kamal Johnson, Mayor