

ORDINANCE NO. 784-18

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 450, VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC ARTICLE III OF THE BEL AIR TOWN CODE, ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR FIRE LANES AND UNOBSTRUCTED AREAS FOR FIRE HYDRANTS

**WHEREAS**, Section 401 (16) of the Charter of the Town of Bel Air authorizes the Board of Town Commissioners to suppress fires and prevent the dangers thereof and to establish and maintain a fire department and fire protection and fire prevention systems

**WHEREAS**, Section 401 (44) of the Charter of the Town of Bel Air authorizes the Board of Town Commissioners to adopt by ordinance and enforce within the corporate limits parking and other similar regulations not in conflict with the laws of the State of Maryland or with the charter

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Town Commissioners wishes to amend Article III, Section 450-37 of the Bel Air Town Code to provide greater detail and specificity as to signage posting locations, dimensions, and approving authority of fire lane signage.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Town Commissioners wishes to amend Article III, Section 450-37 of the Bel Air Town Code to also authorize parking enforcement personnel to enforce the provisions of this article.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED** by the Board of Town Commissioners of Bel Air that fire lanes and unobstructed areas for fire hydrants be established as follows:

§ 450-37. **Fire lanes and unobstructed areas for fire hydrants.**

- A. A fire lane shall be designated if a fire official determines that public safety requires designation of a fire lane to provide access to:
  - 1. A building or place in which people work or assemble for any purpose; or
  - 2. A building containing more than two dwelling units.
- B. When a fire official determines a fire lane is required, the property owner shall:

1. Clearly designate the fire lane by posting a sign approved by ~~a fire official;~~ **and the Director of Public Works in accordance with the provisions in Chapter 204-2. Signs shall adhere to the standards found in the Maryland Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.**
  2. Paint red any curb or roadway to designate the fire lane. The shade of the red paint shall be approved by a fire official.
- C. A property owner shall maintain a clear space of at least 36 inches around any fire hydrant located on his/her property and shall maintain an unobstructed area (i.e., free of landscaping, dumpsters, or other obstructions) between the curb and the face of the hydrant. The unobstructed area shall extend a minimum of 15 feet measured along the curb to either side of the center line of the hydrant.
- D. A property owner shall maintain an unobstructed path from the curb to any Fire Department connection located on a building. The path shall be a minimum of four feet wide.
- E. A property owner, including owners of all nonprofit and governmental buildings, who fails after a ninety-day notice to properly designate and maintain a fire lane by appropriate signs and other appropriate marking or who fails to maintain unobstructed access or clear space to a hydrant or Fire Department connection as required by this section shall be liable for a municipal infraction penalty as provided in Chapter 1, Article II of this Code. Each day a violation continues is a separate offense.

Editor's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch. 1, General Provisions, Art. III).

- F. A fine under this section shall be imposed if:
1. A fire official who observes a violation reports the violation to a law enforcement official; or
  2. A law enforcement **or parking enforcement official** observes a vehicle parked in a fire lane.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that this Ordinance shall become effective on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

INTRODUCTION:

PUBLIC HEARING:

ENACTMENT:

EFFECTIVE:                      April                      , 2018

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

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Susan U. Burdette, Chairperson  
Board of Town Commissioners

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Michael Krantz, Town Clerk