

**192. AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FIRE LANES  
(INITIALLY APPROVED MARCH 5, 2012; FINALLY  
APPROVED APRIL 2, 2012)**

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to provide the highest level of public safety within the City of Groton it has become necessary to establish fire lanes to ensure public safety access to private and public property; and

**Definitions.**

A fire lane is a designated, unobstructed passageway sufficient in size to permit free passage of fire apparatus and other emergency equipment from a public highway to all necessary areas or portions of any private or public property as set forth in this article.

**Established by fire marshal.**

Whenever the fire chief of the City of Groton, or his/her designee, determines that the reasonable safety of persons occupying or using any public or private premises within having a capacity of at least 15 persons requires the establishment of a fire lane for orderly access of fire and other emergency equipment to the premises, he/she shall establish such fire lane by written order designating and describing such lane. The fire chief, or designee, shall cause a copy of such order to be delivered by certified mail to the owner, or owners, or tenants thereof, of any private land on which such fire lane is established, and shall cause a public announcement to be made of the establishment of such lane.

**Aggrievement procedure.**

Whenever the fire chief or his/her designee establishes a fire lane, he/she shall file one copy of his/her order with the city clerk and one copy with the traffic authority of the City. Any person aggrieved by such order may file with the City Clerk within 15 days of the date of the mailing of such order, written notice of appeal, setting forth therein reasons of aggrievement. After hearing, the city council shall affirm, modify or rescind such order within 60 days of the date of order.

**Erection of signs, markings, etc.**

Upon establishment of a fire lane, the traffic authority of the City shall within 90 days cause to be erected or installed, adequate signs, markings or other devices to delineate such fire lane. Such signs, markings or other devices must conform to specifications provided by the traffic authority. It is required that white markings be used to delineate permissible parking areas and only yellow markings be used where restricted parking, pursuant to a fire lane, exists. This will include, but not be limited to, parking spaces, curb sides, sidewalk lines, and sides of buildings. When it is determined that curbs and/or sides of sidewalks are to be painted yellow, the entire exposed area of such curb or sidewalk side will be painted. Signs, markings and other devices erected or installed on privately owned premises shall be at the cost of the owner and may be billed for and collected in the same manner as municipal taxes, provided such traffic authority causes a notice of lien to be filed on the land records within 60 days after such erection or installation.

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Upon installation of a fire lane by the owner or agents thereof, or in a situation of noncompliance in which the traffic authority of the City causes such compliance, such owner, owners, or agents thereof shall then have the cost and responsibility to maintain in good condition the adequate signs, markings and other devices already erected or installed to delineate such fire lane, and promptly replace and/or install or repair such signs, markings or other devices necessitated by theft, vandalism, accident, weathering or other unforeseen circumstance or need. Whenever the City traffic authority identifies a need for replacement, repair, maintenance or installation of signs, markings or other devices to delineate a fire lane which is already established, it shall notify the owner, owners or agents of such private property by written order by certified mail describing such repair, replacement and/or improvement to be made. In the event of an owner's failure to respond to such order, the traffic authority of the City shall, after 30 days from the mailing of such order, cause such repair, replacement and/or improvement to be made at the cost of the owner. Such cost may be billed for and collected in the same manner as described above.

**Parking within prohibited; exception.**

No person shall park or permit any motor vehicle to stand in a fire lane or to obstruct a fire hydrant except when actually picking up and discharging passengers.

**Notice of violation; fines.**

Whenever any police officer finds any vehicle in violation of (the section immediately preceding this, needs to be numbered), he shall attach to such vehicle a notice to the owner or operator that such vehicle has been parked in violation of the law, which notice shall indicate the nature of the violation and shall instruct such owner or operator to report in person to the City Police Department. If such owner or operator appears at police headquarters within seven days of the time when such notice was attached, he may pay to the police department the sum of \$50 which shall be in full satisfaction of such violation. If such owner does not appear within seven days, but does appear within 14 days of the time such notice was attached, he may pay to the police department the sum of \$75.00 which shall be in full satisfaction of such violation. If such owner or operator does not appear at police headquarters in response to such notice within 14 days and does not pay the sum of \$50.00 or \$75.00, as the case may be, then the police department shall cause such owner or operator to be prosecuted for such violation in the court having jurisdiction of such violations.

**Removal of vehicle by police department.**

Any vehicle found parked in violation of this article may, if public convenience and necessity so require, be removed or conveyed by or under the direction of a member of the police department by towing the same or by other means to a public garage and such removal shall be at the cost and risk of the owner. Before the owner or person in charge of such vehicle shall be permitted to remove the same from the custody of the police department, he shall furnish evidence of his identity and ownership or right to possession and shall pay to the police department the towing and storage charges reasonably incurred in such removal.

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**Distribution of money collected.**

All money collected by the police department under this article shall be paid to the director of finance under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe, subject to the approval of the mayor and shall be deposited by him/her in the City's general fund.

**Prosecution of violation; fine.**

In the event of prosecution, a violation of this article shall constitute an offense for which any person found in violation shall be fined not more than \$100.00.

**WHEREAS**, this Ordinance was published in The Day, a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Groton on March 10, 2012 and March 12, 2012;

**WHEREAS**, this Ordinance shall become effective upon passage;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council **Finally** Approve "An Ordinance Establishing Fire Lanes".

**Initially Approved:** March 5, 2012

**Finally Approved:** April 2, 2012

  
Marian K. Galbraith, Mayor

  
Debra Patrick, City Clerk