

City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

In the Year Two Thousand Fourteen

Upon the Recommendation of Mayor David J. Narkewicz

ORDINANCE

An Ordinance of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts, providing that the Code of Ordinances, City of Northampton, Massachusetts, be amended by revising section 149 §1-4 of said code; providing that *Buildings, Numbering of*

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Northampton, in City Council assembled, as follows: That section 149 §1-4 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Northampton, Massachusetts, be amended so that such section shall read as follows:

SECTION 149 § 1-4 – Buildings, Numbering of

Amend § 1-4 as follows:

Article I. Numbering of Buildings

§ 149-1. Numbering of buildings required.

A.

Every owner, occupant or person having control of any principal building on property which has been assigned a number by the ~~Board~~ **Department** of Public Works shall, at their own expense, cause said building to be numbered with numeric figures at least three inches in height, in contrasting color to the background and conspicuously placed facing the road according to the directions of the ~~City Engineer~~ **Director of Public Works or his/her designee** and/or any public safety officer as follows:

(1)

The ~~City Engineer~~ **Director of Public Works or his/her designee** and/or any public safety officer shall use the following guidelines on any building situated more than 80 feet from the road layout: Each person shall place numbers in a conspicuous location not more than three feet from the edge of the driveway and not more than 10 feet from the road layout. Numbers shall be placed on a freestanding pole or post between four and six feet in height, above ground level, and shall face the road.

(2)

Buildings less than 80 feet from the road layout with a view obstructed by vegetation or other materials preventing visibility from the road will follow the guidelines in Subsection **A**.

(3)

In the case of common or shared drives, property owners will adequately display all building numbers on a freestanding post, as described in Subsection **A** above, which can be easily viewed in all seasons, at the entrance to

the drive, and such owners shall provide additional marking, as previously stated, which shall be posted at appropriate junctions in the drive to facilitate immediate response by emergency service personnel.

B.

Every owner, occupant or person having control of any apartment or group of apartments, condominiums, industrial and/or commercial buildings shall cause each principal building to bear the number assigned by the ~~Board~~ **Department** of Public Works on the front entrance of each unit. In case a principal building is occupied by more than one business or family dwelling unit, each separate unit shall bear a separate number or letter (A, B, C, etc.).

C.

Every owner, occupant or person having control of any principal building on property in the City, which at the time of adoption of this article is in compliance with this § ~~149-1~~, shall not be required to increase the size of numbers on their dwelling; the burden of proof to show compliance shall be on the homeowner.

§ 149-2. Manner of numbering.

A.

Said numbers shall, in the business portions of the City, cover a frontage of 10 feet more or less and, in the residence portions of the City, a frontage of 25 feet more or less, at the discretion of the **Director of Public Works or his/her designee** ~~City Engineer~~, and be measured continuously from the end of the street, lane, alley or court.

B.

When lot driveway access is permitted by the Planning Board, Zoning Board, or Zoning Board of Appeals at a location other than the lot frontage, the **Director of Public Works or his/her designee** ~~City Engineer~~ may assign a house number at the street, lane, alley or court where the driveway is located for safety reasons. When a building is built close to the street line with the clear intention of providing a presence on that street, the City Engineer may assign house numbers for the street adjacent to the building and/or may assign multiple numbers on multiple streets, regardless of the location of the driveway or other buildings on the same property, provided such street number will not slow emergency response.

C.

The odd numbers shall be on the right side of the street going from the principal street from which it leads, and the even numbers opposite the smaller odd numbers.

§ 149-3. Assignment of new numbers.

The **Director of Public Works or his/her designee** ~~City Engineer~~ shall assign a new number wherever he finds that the number in use is incorrect, but he shall not have authority to renumber a street unless so ordered by the Planning Board.

§ 149-4. Violations and penalties.

Any owner, occupant, or person having control of any dwelling house or other building who shall refuse or neglect to comply with the provisions of this article within then 10 days after a notice in writing is delivered to such owner, occupant, or person, of the number or numbers assigned said buildings by the **Director of Public Works or his/her designee** ~~City Engineer~~, shall for each and every offense, forfeit and pay a penalty as set forth in Chapter 40, Enforcement.