

**ORDINANCE 1497**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA, RELATING TO LOCAL AMENDMENTS TO THE FLORIDA FIRE PREVENTION CODE; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORITY; PROVIDING FOR PURPOSE; AMENDING SECTION 20-3209 OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, Section 622.0215, Florida Statutes (2001) permits municipalities to adopt local amendments to the Florida Fire Prevention Code which are more stringent than the standards within the Florida Fire Prevention Code;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Fort Walton Beach adopted local amendments to the Florida Fire Prevention Code, effective January 1, 2002;

**WHEREAS**, the City of Fort Walton Beach submitted the City's local fire prevention amendments to the Office of the State Fire Marshal;

**WHEREAS**, the Office of the Fire Marshal has determined that a portion of Section 20-3209 to be less stringent than the requirements of the Florida Fire Prevention Code pursuant to the Office of the Fire Marshal's letter of March 7, 2002.

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1. AUTHORITY.** The authority for enactment of this ordinance is Sections 166.021(1) and 622.0215(3)(b), Florida Statutes (2001).

**SECTION 2. PURPOSE.** The purpose of this ordinance is to amend Section 20-3209, of the Land Development Code.

**SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Article XIV, Section 20-3209 of the Land Development Code, entitled "Sprinkler installation required in certain buildings; standards; pumps; obstructions", is hereby amended as follows:

Section 20-3209. Sprinkler installation required in certain buildings; standards; pumps; obstructions.

(a) *Definitions.* For the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) *Gross floor area* shall mean the inside perimeter of the exterior walls with no deduction for corridors, stairs, closets, thickness of walls, columns, or other features exclusive of areas open and unobstructed to the sky.

(2) *Height* shall mean the vertical distance from the lowest finished floor to the highest point of the roof. Church steeples, cupolas, equipment enclosures, and chimneys are exempt from this definition.

(b) *Installation requirements.*

(1) All buildings constructed in the city which are three stories or 30 feet in height or higher or exceed 12,000 [square feet] gross floor area regardless of interior separations shall be protected by automatic sprinkler systems throughout the entire building. ~~Existing buildings on April 28, 1992 shall require to be sprinklered if any addition, alteration, or rehabilitation occurs to the building equal to or greater than 50 percent of the original building gross floor area and such floor area increases shall be cumulative.~~

(2) All such sprinkler system shall be installed strictly in accordance with the standards set forth in the National Fire Codes, as adopted in section 1610.01 of the Fire Prevention Code; the Standard Building Code as adopted in section 1420.01; and N.F.P.A No. 13D, and No. 13R as amended, except that such system shall be installed throughout the building as set forth in subsection.

(b)(1).

(3) Automatic sprinkler systems shall be provided with separate pumps when necessary. The pump shall be physically located in a separate building apart from the sprinklered structure or have a two-hour separation to protect the pump from a fire in the main building. A door shall be installed to the pump room to gain entrance from the outside.

(4) There shall be no obstruction within ten feet of the fire department connection to the automatic sprinkler system. All fire department connections shall be provided with a reflective sign approved by the fire department for ease of location.

**SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY.** Each provision of this ordinance is independent of all other provisions herein so that if any portion of the provision of this ordinance is declared invalid, all other provisions shall remain valid and enforceable.

**SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon approval by Council and signature by the Mayor.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA ON THE 9TH DAY OF APRIL 2002.**

ATTEST: The form and legal sufficiency of the Foregoing has been reviewed and Approved by the City Attorney.