

ST. TAMMANY PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE CALENDAR NO.: 7879

ORDINANCE COUNCIL SERIES NO.: 25-

COUNCIL SPONSOR: MR. LAUGHLIN

PROVIDED BY: CIVIL DA/COUNCIL OFFICE

INTRODUCED BY: _____

SECONDED BY: _____

ON THE 1ST DAY OF MAY, 2025

ORDINANCE TO AMEND ST. TAMMANY PARISH CODE OF ORDINANCES, PART I – CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 14 – FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION, ARTICLE I – IN GENERAL, TO ADD SEC. 14-4 – GATE ACCESS SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS, TO REQUIRE RESTRICTED ACCESS COMMUNITIES TO INSTALL SIREN OPERATED SENSOR.

WHEREAS, St. Tammany Parish Government is charged with protecting the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; and,

WHEREAS, residential communities with restricted gate access create a unique challenge for emergency responders which could affect the health and safety of the residents of those communities; and,

WHEREAS, rather than provide access codes or physical keys which change frequently, new technology exists to allow emergency responders to gain immediate access to gated communities using siren operated sensors; and,

WHEREAS, siren operated sensors are a convenient and low cost solution compatible with all access gates which work by detecting a specific sound pattern, such as a “Yelp” siren, and triggering access; and,

WHEREAS, in order to ensure expedient access by emergency responders, all new subdivisions, apartment complexes, and other residential communities with restricted gate access applying for building permits on or after June 5, 2025, or existing private subdivisions, apartment complexes, and other residential communities applying for a building permit affecting their gate access on or after June 5, 2025, shall be required to install a siren operated sensor on or before January 1, 2026; and,

WHEREAS, additionally, any existing private subdivisions, apartment complexes, and other residential communities is strongly encouraged to install a siren operated sensor to ensure the timely response by first responders to the residents thereof.

THE PARISH OF ST. TAMMANY HEREBY ORDAINS that St. Tammany Parish Code of Ordinances, Part I – Code of Ordinances, Chapter 14 – Fire Prevention and Protection, Article I – In General, to add Sec. 14-4, to provide as follows:

Sec. 14-4. Gate Access System Requirements.

- (a) *Siren operated sensor required.* Any subdivision, apartment complex, and other residential community with restricted gate access shall be required to install and maintain the functionality of a siren operated sensor to ensure immediate access by emergency responders, including fire, law enforcement, and emergency medical services.
- (b) *Communities affected.* These regulations shall apply to any new subdivision, apartment complex, and other residential community with restricted gate access applying for building permits on or after June 5, 2025, or any existing private subdivisions, apartment complexes, and other residential communities applying for a building permit affecting their gate access on or after June 5, 2025.
- (c) *Penalty.* Failure to install and maintain a siren operated sensor by the owner of the access gate operator constitutes a violation of this section. The owner of the access gate found to be in violation of this section shall be fined \$500.00.

Returned to Council Clerk: _____, 2025 at _____