

ORDINANCE #10-2026

BOROUGH OF STRATFORD, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 8.10 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF STRATFORD TO REVISE THE KNOX BOX RAPID ENTRY SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL OCCUPANCIES

WHEREAS, the Borough of Stratford has adopted Chapter 8.10 to ensure rapid fire department access to structures during emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council find it necessary to expand the Knox Box requirement to include any new business or commercial enterprise, regardless of building age, in order to enhance public safety and reduce delays during emergency response;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stratford, County of Camden, State of New Jersey, that Chapter 8.10 shall be amended as follows:

8.10.020 - Definitions.

For purposes of this section, “new business or commercial enterprise” shall include any newly established occupancy, tenant fit-out, change of use, or commencement of operations within an existing structure, irrespective of whether the building is newly constructed.

Section 1. Amendment to 8.10.030 – Requirement

Section 8.10.030(A)(3) of the Code of the Borough of Stratford is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

- 3.** Any new business, commercial enterprise, or industrial occupancy established within the Borough—regardless of the age, condition, or prior use of the building—identified by the Stratford Fire Chief as difficult to access during emergencies, or determined to require rapid entry capability due to the presence of alarm systems, restricted access, or operational hazards.

Section 2. Reaffirmation of Remaining Provisions

All other provisions of Chapter 8.10 shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

Section 3. Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication as required by law.

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ATTEST:

I certify that the foregoing Ordinance 09-2026 was approved for final adoption by the Governing Body of the Borough of Stratford, County of Camden, State of New Jersey at a meeting held on the 10th day of September 9, 2026.

Linda Hall, Mayor

September 9, 2026

Date

ATTEST:

Michelle Hack, RMC

Record of Council Vote on Introduction	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Gilligan				
Councilman Bove				
Councilwoman Farrell				
Councilman Gandy				
Councilwoman Martin				
Councilman Tolomeo				

Record of Council Vote on Final Passage	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Councilman Gilligan				
Councilman Bove				
Councilwoman Farrell				
Councilman Gandy				
Councilwoman Martin				
Councilman Tolomeo				

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NOTICE OF PENDING ORDINANCE

The ordinance published herewith was introduced and passed upon first reading at the Regular Meeting of the Governing Body of the Borough of Stratford, in the County of Camden, State of New Jersey, held on the 13th day of August, 2026. It will be further considered for final passage after public hearing thereon, at the meeting of the Governing Body to be held in the Borough Hall, in the Borough of Stratford on the 9th day of September, 2026 at 6:30 PM. Copies of the ordinance will be made available during the week prior to and up to and including the date of such meeting at the Clerk's Office in the Borough Hall to the members of the general public who shall request the same.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This ordinance updates Chapter 8.10 to expand the Knox Box Rapid Entry System requirement beyond newly constructed buildings. Under the amendment, any new business or commercial enterprise established within an existing structure, regardless of the building's age or prior use, must install a Knox Box when identified by the Fire Chief as needing rapid emergency access. The change ensures firefighters can enter commercial occupancies quickly during emergencies, reduces delays caused by locked or restricted access, and improves overall public safety without imposing requirements on one- and two-family owner-occupied dwellings.

Michelle Hack, RMC, Borough Clerk