

ORDINANCE

CECIL COUNTY GOVERNMENT

AN ORDINANCE OF CECIL COUNTY GOVERNMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF AMENDING CHAPTER 157 OF THE CECIL COUNTY CODE, ENTITLED BUILDING CONSTRUCTION, BY ADDING NEW SECTION 157-6 REQUIRING ADDRESS NUMBERS ON IMPROVED REAL PROPERTIES.

WHEREAS, Many improved real properties in Cecil County do not have their address numbers displayed; and,

WHEREAS, Ambulance, fire and police vehicles are often delayed by the absence of address numbers when responding to calls; and,

WHEREAS, In an emergency situation, this delay could result in damage to private and public property, danger to public safety, and often the loss of human life; and,

WHEREAS, Cecil County Government hereby finds that it is necessary to require the display of address numbers in order to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Cecil County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ESTABLISHED by Cecil County Government that Chapter 157 of the Cecil County Code, entitled Building Construction, be and is hereby amended by the following section:

Section 157-6 - Address numbers of improved properties.

A. In this section, the following words have the meanings indicated:

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE

Any member or employee of:

- (1) The Cecil County Sheriff's Department;
- (2) The Cecil County Permits and Inspections Office;
- (3) The Cecil County Department of Planning and Zoning;
- (4) The Cecil County Department of Public Works; or
- (5) The Department of Emergency Services.

OWNER

The individual, partnership, firm, association, corporation or other entity whose name appears on the tax records of the County for any property subject to the provisions of this section.

B. Duty of property owners. It shall be the duty of every owner of improved real property to display and maintain street numbers indicating the address assigned to the property. The number shall be displayed in accordance with the provisions of Subsection C.

C. Display guidelines.

(1) The number shall be displayed in a location clearly visible from the road upon which the address number is assigned.

(2) Numbers shall be placed on both sides of the mailbox. However, if any of the conditions listed below exist, then the number must also be displayed as described in Subsection C(3) and/or (4) of this subsection:

(a) There is no mailbox.

(b) The mailbox is on the opposite side of the road from the home.

(c) There are multiple mailboxes at the location or the home which goes with the mailbox is not clearly identifiable.

(3) Numbers may be placed on the dwelling or principal structure only if they are clearly visible from the road off of which it is addressed and the view of the number is not obstructed by trees, shrubs, porches, etc.

(4) Numbers may be placed on a private sign, post or large rock at the entrance of the driveway as long as the numbers are clearly visible from the road.

(5) Address numbers shall be Arabic numbers or alphabetical letters. Numbers shall be a minimum of four inches (102 mm) high with a minimum stroke width of 1/2 inch (12.7 mm).

(6) Numbers shall be plain block numbers, not script or written numbers.

(7) Numbers shall be set on a background of contrasting color.

(8) Wherever practicable, said number shall be placed near a light or some source of illumination so that it may be readily seen at night.

(9) Numbers shall not be placed on utility poles or County/state road sign posts.

D. Display of other numbers prohibited. The display of any address number other than the number authorized or assigned by the Department of Planning and Zoning is expressly prohibited.

E. Noncompliance and violations.

(1) Any dwelling or principal structure erected, repaired, altered or modified after the effective date of this chapter shall have the certificate of occupancy withheld until the assigned address number is displayed in accordance with this section.

(2) A County representative who observes a violation of this section shall notify the Department of Planning and Zoning via a standard form developed by said Department.

(3) The Department of Planning and Zoning shall issue a warning by certified mail, which shall notify the owner:

(a) That he/she is in violation of this section.

(b) Of the requirements of this section.

(c) How to comply with the requirements.

(4) The warning shall be on a standard form developed by the Department of Planning and Zoning.

Adopted: February 18, 1997

Amended: *June 15, 2010, Display Guidelines*

December 3, 2012, Change to Charter Government