

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

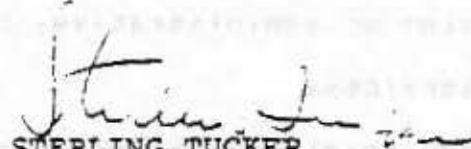
NOTICE

D.C. Law 2-90

"Fire Lanes and Fire Hydrants Act of 1977"

Pursuant to Section 412 of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act, P.L. 93-198, "the Act", the Council of the District of Columbia adopted Bill No. 2-214, on first and second readings March 21, 1978 and April 4, 1978, respectively. Following the signature of the Mayor on April 25, 1978, this legislation was assigned Act No. 2-187, published in the May 26, 1978, edition of the D.C. Register and transmitted to both Houses of Congress for a 30-day review, in accordance with Section 602 (c)(1) of the Act.

The Council of the District of Columbia hereby gives notice that the 30-day Congressional Review Period has expired, and, therefore cites the following legislation as D.C. Law 2-90, effective June 30, 1978.


STERLING TUCKER
Chairman of the Council

(Vol. 24, D.C. Register, 9759, May 26, 1978)

D. C. LAW

2-90

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

June 30, 1978

To authorize the Fire Chief of the District of Columbia to require and regulate the placement and maintenance of fire lanes and fire hydrants on certain private property.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
That this act may be cited as the "Fire Lanes and Fire Hydrants Act of 1977".

Sec. 2. The Fire Prevention Code of the District of Columbia (Title 7, D.C.R.R.) (hereinafter referred to as the "Code") is amended as follows:

(a) Section 1.17 of part 1 of chapter 1 of the Code is amended by inserting in alphabetical sequence the following definitions:

"Commercial purpose means the occupancy or use of a building or structure or any portion thereof, for the display, sale, shelter, or storage of goods, wares, products, vehicles, or merchandise, and the transaction of administrative, business, or professional services.

"Industrial purpose means the occupancy or use of a building or structure or any portion thereof, in-

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APR 25 1978

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"Industrial purpose means the occupancy or use of a building or structure or any portion thereof, in-

cluding open spaces appurtenant thereto, where work is performed in manufacturing, assembling, processing, altering, or repairing materials or products.

"Multiple dwelling means a building or structure or any portion thereof, in which there are three (3) or more dwelling or rooming units, occupied or offered for occupancy."

(c) Chapter III of the Code is amended by adding the following new part to read as follows:

"PART 34-FIRE LANES AND FIRE HYDRANTS

"Sec. 34.1 Designation of Fire Lanes

"Sec. 34.2 Installation of Fire Hydrants

"Sec. 34.1 DESIGNATION OF FIRE LANES.

"(a) The Fire Chief is authorized to require and designate fire lanes on private property used and occupied for assembly, commercial, educational, industrial, institutional or multiple dwelling purposes, or on property occupied by clusters of two (2) or more dwellings to which access is provided by private roads, for the purpose of prohibiting parking in front of or adjacent to fire hydrants, fire escapes and egress facilities, and providing access to such property for fire apparatus and emergency vehicles.

"(b) Fire lanes designated by the Fire Chief shall be designed and constructed with a surface durable to all weather and of sufficient strength to support the weight of firefighting apparatus used by the Fire Department. Such fire lanes shall have a minimum width of twenty (20) feet, unless the Fire Chief determines that a reduced width, which shall be no less than twelve (12) feet, will not adversely affect access by fire apparatus and emergency vehicles.

"(c) It shall be the duty of the owner of property affected by this section to maintain designated fire lanes in good repair and free of obstructions. Overhead objects, including overhanging tree limbs, shall not be lower than fourteen (14) feet above the surface of a fire lane. Accumulations of snow or ice shall be removed from fire lanes within eight (8) hours after the snow or sleet has stopped falling. The Fire Chief may order that the curbs of fire lanes be painted a specific color, and be repainted as often as necessary to remain distinct.

"(d) The Fire Chief may order that signs reading 'FIRE LANE NO PARKING ANYTIME' be mounted along the side of the fire lane in such numbers and locations as he may direct. 'NO PARKING' signs shall be designed and installed as follows: constructed of properly treated aluminum 0.063 inches thick, 12 inches wide and 18 inches long, with

rounded corners. The words 'FIRE LANE NO PARKING ANYTIME' shall be painted in red on a white reflectorized background, with each word occupying one line. The sign shall be mounted either on a channelized steel 'U' post, or on an adjacent building wall. The bottom of the sign shall be no less than seven (7) feet above the ground. Where necessary, directional arrows shall be placed below the last word. The words 'By Order of the Fire Chief' shall be painted in 1/2 inch letters at the bottom of the sign. The Fire Chief may order that amended specifications be substituted for the foregoing (in order to conform with changes in the Department of Transportation's specifications for traffic signs, or otherwise) after publication in the District of Columbia Register as required by sections 6 and 7 of the District of Columbia Administrative Procedure Act, approved October 21, 1968 (82 Stat. 1206; D.C. Code, secs. 1-1505 and 1-1506). The owner of the affected property shall maintain 'NO PARKING' signs so they are clearly legible.

"(e) The cost of construction, installation, painting, maintenance and repair of the fire lanes and 'NO PARKING' signs required pursuant to this section shall be borne by the owner of the affected property.

"(f) It shall be a violation of this section to park any vehicle in a fire lane designated pursuant to this section.

"(1) To park any vehicle on private property in violation of this section shall be a misdemeanor. Any person convicted of such a violation shall be subject to the penalty provided in section 1.20 of this title.

"(2) Any vehicle parked in violation of this section may be removed and impounded by the Metropolitan Police Department in the manner provided by section 91 of part 1 of the District of Columbia Highways and Traffic Regulations.

"Sec. 34.2 INSTALLATION OF FIRE HYDRANTS.

"The Fire Chief is authorized to require the installation of, and to specify the number and location of fire hydrants on private property occupied by clusters of two (2) or more single or two-family dwellings to which access is provided by private roads, and on private property used for multiple dwellings, or for assembly, or for commercial, educational, industrial or institutional purposes, wherever the distance to the front entrance of the most distant building on such private property from the

rest fire hydrant on a public street exceeds five hundred 20 feet. Installation of such fire hydrants and their water mains shall conform to specifications established by the Mayor. The cost of installation, maintenance and repair of fire hydrants and their water mains required pursuant to this subsection shall be borne by the owner of the affected property."

Sec. 3. The provisions of this act shall apply to existing occupancies one (1) year after the effective date of this act, unless the Fire Chief determines, for public safety reasons, that a shorter time is necessary. For purposes of this section, "existing occupancies" includes planned occupancy for which a building permit was issued before the effective date of this act.

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect following the period provided for Congressional review in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Organization Act.