

# **THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS**

## **THE CHARTER AND THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY**

### **CHAPTER 9 - PUBLIC PEACE, SAFETY AND ORDER**

#### **Article VIII. Public Safety**

##### **Section 9.90. Numbering of Dwellings/Businesses**

**A. Numbers, Type and Size**

All structures, be they residential, business, commercial or industrial, on lots in the City of Methuen shall display building numbers made of a permanent weatherproof material and shall be a minimum of three (3) inches in height, in either block or script style.

Numbers in written form, such as "Two Hundred Eighty-Five", are not acceptable. Numbers are to be of a contrasting color to the background surface.

**B. Placement of Numbers**

Such building numbers shall be placed on each structure so as to be plainly visible from the street on which the building is located by street address.

Buildings not visible from the street shall have an address marker placed in a plainly visible location (such as a post) near the street. Numbers on such markers shall be a minimum of four (4) feet in height from the street surface.

Numbers should not be placed where they will be obstructed by snow, shrubbery, decorations, etc.

**C. Assignment**

The numbers so utilized shall be those assigned by the Board of Assessors.

**D. Responsibility for Placement of Numbers**

It shall be the responsibility of the following individuals, persons, firms, or corporations (The Individuals), at their own expense and cost to place or cause to be placed building numbers on structures:

(1) As to existing structures, the owner of the building.

(2) As to structures under construction, which have not been issued an occupancy permit as of the effective date of the ordinance, the person listed on the Building Permit as the owner.

**E. New Building Requirements**

The owner of any property seeking a Building Permit for new construction shall simultaneously apply for and receive a building number designation from the Board of Assessors. The number so assigned shall be affixed to the structure before the Occupancy Permit for such structure shall be issued by the Building Commissioner.

**F. Enforcement**

This ordinance shall be enforced by the Building Commissioner or his subordinates.

G. Inspection for Conformity

Inspection for conformity with this ordinance shall be conducted by the Fire Department as part of the required smoke detector inspection at the time of the sale or refinancing of the property. The Fire Chief, or his designee, shall have the authority to regulate the size, type and placement of address numbers.

H. Fines

Any individual found in violation of this ordinance shall be punishable by a fine of Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) per offense; each day, or portion thereof that the violation is allowed to continue shall constitute a separate offense.

Notwithstanding the above, upon the first violation of this ordinance, an individual shall receive a written violation notice only. Such notice shall direct the individual to affix such building number(s) within seven calendar days or thereafter be subject to the fines provided for above.

I. Effective Date

The provisions of this ordinance shall become effective thirty days from the date of adoption excepting existing structures to which it shall become effective ninety days from adoption.

(Ord. #313, effective January 4th, 1989; as amended by Ord. #589, effective Nov. 20th, 1996)