



City of Columbus

Legislation Report

Office of City Clerk
90 West Broad Street
Columbus OH 43215-9015
columbuscitycouncil.org

File Number: 1052-2025

30 Day

File ID: 1052-2025

Type: Ordinance

Status: Passed

Version: 1

***Committee:** Rules & Policy Committee

File Name: Code Change- Section 2505.07.6 Fire Protection Water Supplies

File Created: 04/10/2025

Final Action: 05/01/2025

Auditor Cert #:

Auditor: When assigned an Auditor Certificate Number I , the City Auditor, hereby certify that there is in the treasury, or anticipate to come into the treasury, and not appropriated for any other purpose, the amount of money specified hereon, to pay the within Ordinance.

Contact Name/No.: Trisha Wentzel 5-6712

Floor Action (Clerk's Office Only)

Mayor's Action

Council Action

Mayor

Date

Date Passed/ Adopted

President of Council

Veto

Date

City Clerk

Title:

To amend existing Section 2505.07.6 of Chapter 2505 of the Columbus City Codes to establish and clarify the authority and responsibility for the maintenance of fire hydrants attached to city water lines but located outside the corporate limits of the City of Columbus.

Sponsors: Emmanuel V. Remy

Attachments: 1052-2025 Proposed Amendments.pdf, 1052-2025 Code Change Fact Sheet.pdf

Related Files:

Approval History

Version	Seq #	Action Date	Approver	Action	Due Date
1	1	4/17/2025	SAFETY DIRECTOR	Approved	4/21/2025
1	2	4/17/2025	Trisha Wentzel	Approved	4/21/2025
1	3	4/18/2025	AUDITOR APPROVER	Approved	4/18/2025
Notes: MNK/mah					
1	4	4/18/2025	ATTORNEY APPROVER	Approved	4/22/2025
Notes: Inb					

History of Legislative File

Ver.	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	Columbus City Council	04/21/2025	Read for the First Time				
1	Columbus City Council	04/28/2025	Approved				Pass
1	COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO-TEM	04/28/2025	Signed				
1	MAYOR	04/30/2025	Signed				
1	CITY CLERK	05/01/2025	Attest				

ODI: Following the review and approval, when required, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion certifies compliance with Title 39 as of date listed.

City Attorney: Following review and approval, when required, this ordinance has been reviewed by the City Attorney's Office as to its form and legality only.

Explanation:

This ordinance establishes and clarifies the authority and responsibility for the maintenance of fire hydrants attached to city water lines but lying outside the corporate limits of the City of Columbus. In 2022, Title 25, the Fire Prevention Code, was enacted and amended to ensure alignment with the Ohio Fire Code, establish an appeal process for the review of violations, and establish a fee structure for certain permits, inspections, modifications, and rates. During that process, a portion of Title 25 that set forth the responsibilities for the maintenance of fire hydrants connected to city water lines but located outside of the City of Columbus was inadvertently removed. This ordinance amends Section 2505.07.6 to reinsert a previously existing portion of that Section regarding fire hydrant maintenance.

..Fiscal Impact:

There is no immediate fiscal impact to the City.

Title:

To amend existing Section 2505.07.6 of Chapter 2505 of the Columbus City Codes to establish and clarify the authority and responsibility for the maintenance of fire hydrants attached to city water lines but located outside the corporate limits of the City of Columbus.

Body:

WHEREAS, an objective of the Division of Fire is to ensure that fire hydrants are operable, not deficient, and comply with the Ohio Fire Code and Title 25 of the Columbus City Codes; and

WHEREAS, an amendment of Section 2505.07.6 is necessary to clarify the responsibility to maintain fire hydrants attached to city water lines located outside of the corporate limits of the City of Columbus; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend Section 2505.07.6 of the Columbus City Codes; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

SECTION 1. That Section 2505.07.6 of Chapter 2505 of the Columbus City Codes is hereby amended as follows:

SEE ATTACHMENT

SECTION 2. That existing section 2505.07.6 of Chapter 2505 of the Columbus City Codes is hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

2505.07 Fire Protection Water Supplies

2505.07.1 Fire flow requirements. This chapter of the Columbus Fire Prevention Code shall include in its entirety, the Ohio Fire Code Appendix B, Fire-Flow Requirements for Buildings.

2505.07.2 Fire hydrant locations. This chapter of the Columbus Fire Prevention Code shall include in its entirety, and as changed from time to time, the Ohio Fire Code Appendix C, Fire Hydrant Locations and Distribution

Exception: Fire hydrants on public streets shall be spaced at 400' for residential areas and 300' for commercial areas.

2505.07.3 Fire protection water supply. The number, location, design and specifications of fire hydrants on water main extensions with the city shall be in accordance with plans approved by the Columbus Division of Fire and shall be installed under the supervision of the Columbus Division of Fire.

2505.07.4 Obstructing, using or defacing fire hydrants; permits, fees and charges.

2505.07.4.1 Obstructing. No person shall in any manner, obstruct or cause to be obstructed, any fire hydrant in the city, nor place or cause to be placed, in or upon any public place or thoroughfare of the city, within ten feet of any fire hydrant any articles, things, materials, dirt, snow or other substances so as to obstruct such hydrant.

2505.07.4.2 Hydrant use. No person other than employees of the City of Columbus, Division of Fire or Division of Water, shall connect any hose with or draw any water from, nor in any way molest or interfere with any of the fire hydrants of the city, without a permit approved by the fire code official and the administrator of the division of water, or their designees.

2505.07.4.3 Rule promulgation. The fire code official and the director of the department of public utilities shall have authority as may be necessary in the interest of public safety, health and general welfare to promulgate rules and regulations, to interpret and implement the provisions of this chapter, to secure the intent thereof, to establish permit fees and to designate requirements applicable because of climatic or other conditions.

2505.07.4.4 Permit conditions. No person authorized to use a fire hydrant under a permit issued pursuant to 2505.07.4.2 shall violate any of the conditions of the permit or any of the rules or regulations pertaining to said permit.

2505.07.4.5 Damage. Except when authorized by a permit issued pursuant to 2505.07.2, no person shall paint, decorate, deface, or in any manner destroy any fire hydrant in the city.

2505.07.4.6 Unauthorized use. Whoever violates Section 2505.07.4.2 or 2505.07.4.5 of this code, including any prescribed rule or regulation authorized by this chapter, shall be charged for unauthorized use of water through a fire hydrant in the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per occurrence plus the cost of repair for any damage to the fire hydrant.

2505.07.4.7 Fail to pay. No person shall fail to pay a charge levied pursuant to Section 2517.04(B). Further, no person shall violate Section 2505.07.4.2 more than two times in a one year period.

2505.07.4.8 Revocation. Any person who violates Section 2505.07.4 shall have all fire hydrant use permits revoked. In addition, no future fire hydrant use permits will be issued to said person.

2505.07.4.9 Violation. Any person who violates Section 2505.07.4.1, 2505.07.4.2, 2505.07.4.4, 2505.07.4.5, or 2505.07.4.6 of this code shall be subject to prosecution pursuant to Section 2501.32 of the Columbus City Code.

2505.07.5 Fire hydrants on water main extension, to be approved by division of fire. The number, location, design and specifications of fire hydrants on water main extensions with the city shall be in accordance with plans approved by the Columbus Division of Fire and shall be installed under the supervision of the Columbus Division of Fire which shall be notified of such installation at least 24 hours prior thereto.

2505.07.6 Maintenance of fire hydrants. The maintenance of fire hydrants lying within the corporate limits of the City of Columbus shall be the responsibility of the division of water, except those privately-owned hydrants installed as part of a private fire protection service pursuant to Section 1105.10. The Director of Public Utilities may also approve the maintenance of fire hydrants lying outside the City of Columbus corporate limits. All other hydrants outside the corporate limits, although attached to Columbus city water lines, are not part of the water main system and not within the maintenance responsibility of the City of Columbus, unless otherwise specifically provided for by contract or agreement.

2505.07.7 Hydrant approvals. The approval required by the fire code official by Sections 2505.01 through 2505.14 of this chapter concerning fire hydrants shall be in addition to any permits or approvals required by the city division of water, division of regulations, or any other city division.

2505.07.8 Private hydrant maintenance. The owner or other responsible person shall test, maintain, and mark privately-owned fire hydrants in accordance with this code. The maintenance of private hydrants shall include, but not be limited to winter inspections. These winter inspections are to be made in order to determine the condition of the hydrant and to be certain that all hydrants at each such location are pumped free of water above the valve prior to October 15 of each year. Maintenance, testing and inspection of private hydrants may only be performed by a contractor registered with the State of Ohio.

2505.07.8.1 Flow test. A flow test to determine gallons per minute of flow, static, and residual pressure shall be conducted every five years on all private hydrants. Results shall be provided to the fire code official.

(Ord. No. 1652-2022, § 1, 10-17-2022)

DRAFTING OFFICE/DEPARTMENT

Fact Sheet: Proposed Changes to Section 2505.07.6

Drafter: Michael Halloran



Department Requesting Code Change:

Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire

Drafter:

Trisha Wentzel for Michael Halloran

Email and Phone:

mrhalloran@columbus.gov; 614.645.4473

Columbus City Code Title Being Amended/Created/Repealed:

Section 2505.07.6

What is the overall purpose of this code change? *Summarize the general themes of the code change(s) and the need for these changes. Please utilize language and descriptors that would be easily understandable by the general public.*

The proposed change establishes and clarifies the responsibility and duty to maintain fire hydrants attached to city water lines but located outside the corporate limits of Columbus. Without this proposed amendment, the Division of Water may be responsible for maintaining fire hydrants that are not within the City of Columbus and not utilized by CFD in its regular operations. This amendment makes clear that jurisdictions outside Columbus are required to maintain fire hydrants even though connected to Columbus water lines.

Why is this code change needed? *Examples: Correcting a drafting error; bringing code into alignment with changes to state law. For other policy changes, it may be necessary to provide a much more in-depth rationale in the section.*

The proposed amendment corrects a previous drafting error. The proposed language was previously included within Section 2517.06. In 2022 (Ordinance 1652-2022) Title 25, the Columbus Fire Prevention Code, was updated. The update involved both substantive and numbering changes. During that process the proposed amendment was inadvertently removed.

What would be the impact of not adopting this code change?

Without the proposed language, the Division of Water may be responsible for maintaining fire hydrants which are attached to city water lines but located outside the corporate limits of Columbus.

**SHANNON G. HARDIN, PRESIDENT | ROB DORANS, PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
NICHOLAS J. BANKSTON | LOURDES BARROSO de PADILLA | NANCY DAY-ACHAUER | SHAYLA D. FAVOR
MELISSA GREEN | EMMANUEL V. REMY | CHRISTOPHER L. WYCHE**

CITY CLERK | ANDREA BLEVINS, CMC

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Drafter: Michael Halloran



Are there any operating or capital budget cost/savings implications for this code change?

These may be direct or in-direct, and please also consider long-term impact.

Without the proposed amendment, the Division of Water may be required to maintain fire hydrants which are attached to city water lines but located outside the corporate limits of the Columbus. Therefore, the cost of labor, material, and equipment required to maintain fire hydrants outside the corporate limits of Columbus will be a savings for both the operating and capital budget.

Describe the community engagement process regarding this code change. What residents, impacted parties, and constituents may be affected? Have they been engaged, and how so? How was their feedback incorporated (or not incorporated) into this code change?

No community engagement took place for two reasons. First, this does not directly impact residents or businesses within the City of Columbus. Second, the proposed language was previously included within the code for three decades before it was inadvertently removed during the comprehensive update to Title 25. This amendment corrects a previous drafting error.

Will this code change take effect with the ordinance, or is there a delayed effective date

The code change will take effect with the ordinance.

**SHANNON G. HARDIN, PRESIDENT | ROB DORANS, PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
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