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CITY OF AMESBURY, MA

SPONSORED BY:

*Kassandra Gove*

**BILL No. 2024-**

**Kassandra Gove, Mayor**

**An Ordinance** to amend the City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking Regulations ARTICLE V- STOPPING, STANDING, PARKING, SECTION 5 to include the prohibition of parking in Fire Lanes.

**Summary:** This ordinance will update the traffic and Parking Regulations adopted in Bill No. 2015-077 and subsequently amended in Bill No. 2015-081, Bill No. 2019-074, Bill No. 2022-059, Bill No. 2022-181, Bill No. 2023-100, and Bill No. 2023-101 and will amend the Amesbury Municipal Code to include the prohibition of parking in Fire Lanes. State Law does not specifically prohibit parking in Fire Lanes but does allow Police and Fire Chiefs to create such lanes. If these lanes are created, then an ordinance would need to be established to prohibit parking in these designated areas. The current Traffic and Parking Regulations do not prohibit parking in Fire Lanes, and this ordinance would prohibit those that are not emergency responders responding to an emergency or conducting routine business from parking in Fire Lanes.

**Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Amesbury assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:**

1. That the City of Amesbury amend the City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking Regulations ARTICLE V- STOPPING, STANDING, PARKING, SECTION 5 by adding SECTION 5-12 - Emergency Access Lanes (Fire Lanes).
2. That ARTICLE V- STOPPING, STANDING, PARKING, SECTION 5-12 - Emergency Access Lanes (Fire Lanes) is added to read as follows:

**SECTION 5-12- Emergency Access Lanes (Fire Lanes)**

- It shall be unlawful to leave any motor vehicle within the limits of any public or private way furnishing means of access for any fire apparatus, ambulance or police vehicle to any building which has a clearly marked Emergency Access Lane (Fire Lane).
- No person shall obstruct or park a motor vehicle in any emergency access lane (Fire Lane). The Chief of the Fire Department or the Chief of the Police Department or their designee shall have the discretion to establish Emergency Access Lanes (Fire Lanes) on commercial or public property which shall be identified as such by the posting of either signs or pavement markings as reflected in the "Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices" as most recently amended.

- The penalties for violators of the ordinance will be enforced through the “City of Amesbury Traffic and Parking regulations” for the purpose of ticketing, assessing fines and the towing of motor vehicles.
- If any vehicle is found in violation of the provisions of this bylaw and the identity of the driver cannot be determined, the owner or the person in whose name such vehicle is registered shall be held prima facie responsible for such violation.

3. This Ordinance shall become effective upon passage.