

First Reading _____

Second Reading _____

ORDINANCE 2011-

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 34,
ENTITLED FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION, OF
THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF OCEAN CITY THAT CHAPTER 34, ENTITLED FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND BE, AND THE SAME IS HEREBY AMENDED BY REPEALING AND REENACTING WITH AMENDMENT SUBSECTIONS 34-46(a) AND (b), AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE III

Sec. 34-46. Multifamily dwellings.

(a) "Multifamily dwelling" shall mean a building containing three or more dwelling units. The term "dwelling unit" shall include structure, building, area and a room or combination of rooms occupied by persons for sleeping or living.

(b) It shall be the responsibility of the owner of each dwelling unit located within multifamily dwellings to install smoke alarms in each dwelling unit intended to be used, originally built or designed to be used for residential purposes. Such smoke alarms shall be capable of sensing visible or invisible particles of combustion and emitting a clearly audible alarm thereof.

(1) In existing multifamily dwellings, at least one smoke alarm shall be installed in close proximity to the access of each sleeping area. A "sleeping area" is defined as the area or areas of the dwelling unit in which the bedrooms (or sleeping rooms) are located. Rooms officially used for sleeping which are separated by other use areas (such as kitchen or living room) shall be considered as separate sleeping areas for the purpose of this section. Smoke alarms shall operate on an AC primary source of electric power, and each alarm shall be wired to the circuit serving the area in which it is located unless otherwise required, but need not be wired into the building fire alarm system.

(2) In new and existing multifamily dwellings, at least one smoke detector shall be installed in every corridor, hall, lobby or any other public area where ambient conditions permit. Such detectors are to be spaced in accordance with NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm Code, and/or the manufacturers specifications.

a. In multifamily dwellings protected throughout by an approved supervised automatic sprinkler system, smoke detection shall only be required in exit access

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corridors serving dwelling units and those areas permitted to be open to exit access corridors serving dwelling units.

b. Existing multifamily dwellings protected throughout by an approved supervised automatic sprinkler system shall be permitted to apply to the Office of the Fire Marshal to comply with the requirements of 34-46(b)(2)a.

(3) Every smoke detector located in a corridor, lobby or any other public area in a multifamily dwelling shall be connected to a building fire alarm system.

(4) Unless prohibited by other sections of the Code, smoke detectors located in a corridor, hall, lobby, or any other public area in new multifamily dwellings protected throughout by a supervised automatic sprinkler system, shall be provided with an alarm verification feature, or two or more smoke detectors provided in a protected area shall require the activation of two smoke detectors prior to activating the building fire alarm system, both in accordance with NFPA 72.

(5) Existing multifamily dwellings shall be permitted to apply to the Office of the Fire Marshal to comply with the requirements of 34-46(b)(4) in those areas protected by a supervised automatic sprinkler system.

(6) Where it has been determined by the Fire Marshal that an existing multifamily dwelling has exceeded the limited number of preventable alarms resulting from public area smoke detectors as defined in section 34-104(a)(3), such existing multifamily structures may be required to comply with the requirements of 34-46(b)(4) in those areas protected by a supervised automatic sprinkler system.

INTRODUCED at a meeting of the City Council of Ocean City, Maryland held on March 7, 2011.

ADOPTED AND PASSED by the required vote of the elected membership of the City Council and approved by the Mayor at its meeting held on March 21, 2011.

ATTEST:

KATHLEEN A.P. MATHIAS, Clerk

RICHARD W. MEEHAN, Mayor

Approved as to Form:

JAMES S. HALL, President

GUY R. AYRES III, City Solicitor

LLOYD MARTIN, Secretary