

Chapter 337. Peddlers, Solicitors and Vendors

§ 337-8. Regulation of drop boxes.

[Added 10-13-2015]

A. Purpose. The purpose of this section is to promote the maintenance of outdoor drop boxes to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the community and to maintain the community in an aesthetically pleasing manner.

B. Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

DROP BOX

Any container or device used by the owner thereof for the purpose of the collection and temporary storage of any item, including but not limited to clothing, placed therein by a member of the public. Trash receptacles and dumpsters are not included in the definition of "drop box" for the purposes of this section.

PERSON

Includes natural person, corporation, limited liability company and any other legal entity.

C. Permit required. The owner of any drop box must secure a permit. The permit will be valid for up to one calendar year beginning on January 1 of each year and expiring on December 31 of each year. The owner of the drop box must provide on the permit application the name, address and telephone number of the owner of the drop box. In addition, the application must contain the name, address and telephone number of the property owner. The application must be signed by both the owner of the box and the property owner. This section may be enforced against the owner of the box, the property owner, or both. The owner of the drop box must notify the City Clerk of any changes in the information provided on the permit application. The annual permit fee is \$25. The City Clerk shall be responsible for issuance of permits. The Zoning Enforcement Officer and/or the Trash Enforcement Officer shall be responsible for enforcing this section.

D. Requirements.

- (1) The drop box shall be properly maintained in a clean and neat condition and in reasonably good repair at all times.
- (2) The drop box shall be emptied on a regular basis to prevent overflow, but in any event not less than once monthly.
- (3) Neither the owner of the drop box nor the property owner shall permit or suffer items to accumulate in the vicinity of the drop box.
- (4) The name, address and telephone number of the owner of the drop box shall be clearly indicated on the outside of the drop box.

E. Violation and penalties.

- (1) Operation of a drop box without a permit or failure to abide by any requirements of this section or failure to keep the information provided on the permit application current shall be a violation of this section and grounds for revocation or denial of a permit. Any person in violation of this section shall be punished by a fine of \$50. Each day a violation exists may be considered a separate violation. The United States of America, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and its subdivisions are exempt from this section.
- (2) In addition to the fine, a violation of this section may be deemed to constitute a public nuisance. The City may, after reasonable notice to the owner of the drop box and property owner, enter the property and remove or cause to be removed the nuisance and destroy any drop box or personal property removed. The costs and charges incurred shall constitute a debt due to the City and may be enforced in an action of contract. Said fine, costs, and charges shall constitute local charges for the purposes of MGL c. 40, § 58.
- (3) The remedies provided herein are in addition to any other lawful remedy available to the City.