

ORDINANCE NO. 768

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD, WASHINGTON, AMENDING LAKEWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE, TITLE 12, CREATING A NEW CHAPTER 12.19, CLUSTER-STYLE MAILBOXES

WHEREAS, prior to the City of Lakewood's incorporation, many of the streets in the Lakewood community lacked sufficient street infrastructure, namely curb, gutter, sidewalk; and

WHEREAS, construction of improved curb, gutter and sidewalk is a City of Lakewood priority; and

WHEREAS, many of the street projects in the City require removal and replacement of existing mailboxes; and

WHEREAS, it is the objective of the United States Post Office to work with its stakeholders to recommend the installation of cluster-style mailboxes as a means to control costs and increase efficiencies in mail delivery; and

WHEREAS, projects requiring removal of existing mailboxes and projects involving installation of new mailboxes as part of a proposed subdivision provide a preferred method of transitioning to the recommended cluster-style mailboxes; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the City of Lakewood to review its codes and regulations as it pertains to new streets, public or private, and street reconstruction projects, and the process to require and install cluster-style mailboxes; and

WHEREAS, it is also appropriate to develop a standardized process to yield a uniform understanding of when cluster-style mailboxes are expected.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That Chapter 12.19 of the Lakewood Municipal Code entitled "Cluster-Style Mailboxes" is hereby created to read as follows:

Chapter 12.19 Cluster-Style Mailboxes

12.19.010 Purpose

The City of Lakewood shall, to the maximum extent practical, require the installation of cluster-style mailboxes for both private and public new street construction and street reconstruction.

12.19.020 Definitions

"Binding site plan," see 17.02.035.

“City,” see 18A.10.180.

“City Engineer,” see 17.02.035.

"Cluster-style mailbox" means a style whereby mailboxes are assembled together in a manufactured unit by an approved United States Postal Service (USPS) manufacturer.

“Developer,” see 17.02.035.

“Owner,” see 18A.10.180.

“Reconstruction” means to comprehensively rebuild to a new condition with current design criteria. Used to rebuild subgrade, roadway base, new roadway surface, roadway appurtenances, signalization, signage, marking, lighting, trees and plantings, and may also include replacement of utility lines located within the road right of way.

“Road” means street, see 18A.10.180.

“Subdivision,” see 17.02.035.

12.19.030 Cluster-Style Mailbox Requirements

A. New Residential Subdivisions

1. The cluster-style mailbox shall not be installed anywhere within a cul-de-sac or a circular offset cul-de-sac bulb.
2. Where three or more lots are created, the City shall require the installation of cluster-style mailboxes; this requirement is for both private and public roads.
3. The location of the cluster-style mailbox shall be shown on the preliminary plat.
4. The cluster-style mailbox shall not be located to conflict with any public utilities, including, but not limited to, manholes, fire hydrants, and intakes.
5. The cluster-style mailbox shall have a four (4) foot concrete access from the public street and the public sidewalk.
6. The cluster-style mailbox shall be located at the property lines on the same side of the street that will be designated as a no parking zone.
7. The cost of installation of the cluster-style mailbox, including, but not limited to, box units, the concrete pad, and the connecting sidewalk, shall be borne by the property owner, and/or developer. Subsequent repair, replacement or maintenance of the box units and concrete pad shall be the responsibility of the users of the cluster-style mailboxes.

Subsequent maintenance of the connecting sidewalk shall be the responsibility of the property owner adjacent to the sidewalk.

8. Cluster-style mailboxes shall meet the minimum design specifications of the United States Post Office (USPS).

9. No driveway or street access shall be constructed within five (5) feet of the cluster-style mailbox.

10. This section excludes binding site plans.

B. Street Reconstruction

1. When the City proposes to reconstruct existing public roads, where existing mailboxes must be removed, the City shall replace and install cluster-style mailboxes at its expense.

2. The location and design of any cluster-style mailbox shall be approved by the City. The location of the cluster-style mailbox may be in the road right-of-way or on private property. Where feasible, installation of vehicle pullouts for mailbox access may be required by the city engineer.

3. Responsibility of the user of the cluster-style mailbox/property owner. Upon installation of the cluster-style mailbox by the City, the users/property owners of the cluster-style mailbox take ownership of the structure. Subsequent repair, replacement or maintenance of the box units and concrete pad shall be the responsibility of the users/property owners of the cluster-style mailboxes. Subsequent maintenance of the connecting sidewalk shall be the responsibility of the users/property owners adjacent to the sidewalk.

Users/property owners of the cluster-style mailbox shall hold the City harmless from any liability relating to the construction of the structure in the road right-of-way.

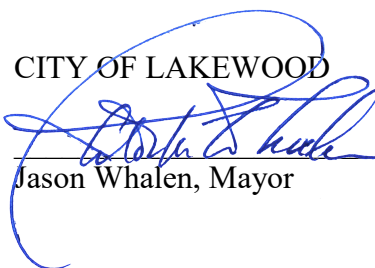
4. Responsibility of the city. The City shall be responsible for replacing or repairing damaged mailboxes when the mailbox is physically struck by a City operated vehicle or a subcontractor performing operations at the request of the City.

Section 2. Severability. Should any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance or its application to any person or situation be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance or its application to any person or situation.

Section 3. Publication and Effective Date. A summary of this ordinance consisting of the title shall be published in the official newspaper. This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after publication.

ADOPTED by the Lakewood City Council on this 2nd day of May, 2022.

CITY OF LAKEWOOD



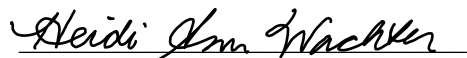
Jason Whalen, Mayor

Attest:



Briana Schumacher, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:



Heidi Ann Wachter, City Attorney