

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF CHATHAM

**§21-206 FIRE PROTECTION ORDINANCE**

(a) Authority to act; effective dates; annual renewal. Pursuant to Supplemental Powers Act of the Georgia Constitution, and O.C.G.A § 25-3-4, the County herein invokes its authority to regulate fire protection services in the unincorporated area. This ordinance shall remain in effect so long as fire provider's protection subscription costs do not increase by more than 5 percent each year in the initial two years of the enactment of this ordinance. Thereafter this ordinance shall continue in effect as long as the County continues to approve fire protection services in the unincorporated area of the County. For the purposes of this ordinance, the Commission shall review the annual statement of each service provider in August to determine if rates have exceeded an amount approved by the County. Should the Commission determine at any time that the rate billed by a provider has exceeded an approved increase from the previous year, then this ordinance is null and void for the area of the County covered by such provider without further action of the Commission.

(b) Fire Protection Services Required.

1. All parcels of land whether improved or vacant located in the unincorporated area of the county must subscribe, carry or otherwise participate in a fire subscription service that provides on-demand, emergency firefighting capacity. The subscription or enrollment shall be with a provider who is recognized by the County in the Service Delivery Strategy filed with the State and an approved fire department with the State of Georgia. Upon request, any property owner, or his lessee if the property is subject to lease, shall provide proof of a current fire subscription to Building Safety and Regulatory Services. Failure to subscribe to a service shall be a violation of this Ordinance.
2. Each day a property in the unincorporated area is not covered by fire subscription services shall constitute a violation of (b) (1).
3. Violation of this ordinance shall be punishable by a fine of up to \$500 or up to 50 hours of community service per day of violation or both. Under no circumstances shall confinement be a punishment for the violation of this ordinance.
4. It is the County's intent to authorize the Magistrate court to utilize community service, fines, or any other alternative sentencing lawful to implement this ordinance.
5. Proof of current subscription service will result in a dismissal of the citation.

Effective this \_\_\_\_\_ day of October, 2021.

Chatham County Commission

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Chester A. Ellis , Chairman

Clerk of Commission

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Janice E. Bocook

Approved as to legal form by:

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Andre Pretorius  
Attorney for Chatham County