

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION MEASURES FOR REGISTERED RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES THROUGHOUT THE CITY, ESTABLISHING A REQUIREMENT FOR SECURE, LOCKING MAIL RECEPTACLES IN CHAPTER 6.15.050 OF THE BELLINGHAM MUNICIPAL CODE

WHEREAS, providing for safe and secure receipt of mail, free from the threat of identity theft, should be available to all residents of the City of Bellingham; and

WHEREAS, identity theft can pose a significant threat to the financial wellbeing of individuals; and

WHEREAS, discarded bills can impact the financial wellbeing and creditworthiness of individuals; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham's commitment equitable, safe, and secure housing for all residents regardless of property ownership is of paramount importance; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bellingham is interested in reducing the causes of litter and debris associated with those that rummage through unsecure mail receptacles; and

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM DOES ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. BMC 6.15.050 regarding Certificates of Inspection is hereby amended as follows:

B. All certificates of inspection submitted under this chapter must state that all units subject to inspection have been inspected, that all units inspected comply with the requirements of the building code, fire code, and state law specified in or under the authority granted in this section, and that there are no conditions presented in the units inspected that endanger or impair the health or safety of a tenant. A qualified rental housing inspector or city building code enforcement officer inspecting a rental unit for a certificate of inspection under this chapter shall inspect for and certify compliance with the following requirements of the building code, and Chapter [59.18](#) RCW, and this chapter:

1 – 13. No changes.

14. All residential housing units subject to registration under this chapter shall include secure, locking mail receptacles for each individual housing unit:

- a. All newly constructed residential housing units shall include secure, locking mail receptacles for each individual housing unit prior to receiving a Certificate of Occupancy.
- b. Property owners of existing residential housing units shall install secure, locking mail receptacles for each individual housing unit prior to applying for a renewal of their residential rental registration.

- c. Secure, locking mail receptacles must comply with all other local, State, Federal and U.S. Postal Service rules and regulations.
- d. Failure to comply with the requirement to provide secure, locking mail receptacles for each individual housing unit may subject the property owner to correction notice and penalties identified in this chapter.

SECTION 2. Effective Date:

The effective date for compliance with BMC 6.15.050(B)(14) shall be January 1, 2025. A one-time extension may be granted at the Planning Director's discretion for individual properties on a case-by-case basis, upon a showing of unique hardship or extenuating circumstances, to an effective date of March 1, 2025.

PASSED by the Council this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Council President

APPROVED by me this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Office of the City Attorney

Published:
