

ORDINANCE NO. 16,471

AN ORDINANCE to amend the Municipal Code of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, 2000, adopted by Ordinance No. 13,827, passed June 5, 2000, as heretofore amended, by amending Sections 46-585 and 46-586, relating to fire apparatus access roads.

Be It Ordained by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa:

Section 1. That the Municipal Code of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, 2000, adopted by Ordinance No. 13,827, passed June 5, 2000, as heretofore amended, is hereby amended, by amending Sections 46-585 and 46-586, relating to fire apparatus access roads, as follows:

Sec. 46-585. Multi-family Residential Developments - Access Roads.

Insert New Section D106.4 with the following language:

D106.4 Public Streets. Where two or more fire apparatus access roads are required, all streets throughout the development shall be public streets complying with city code and policy in design and installation standards.

Exemption: Where a fire apparatus access road only serves an isolated portion of the development for compliance with IFC 503, and that isolated portion would not require two fire apparatus access roads, all as determined by designated fire department staff, such fire apparatus access road may be but shall not be required to be a public street.

D106.4.1 Alternative to Public Streets. Where public streets are not required for the development other than as specified in IFC Appendix D or the exemption in city code section 106.4 applies, the fire apparatus access roads shall be permitted, but not required, to be privately owned when the following requirements are met and are recorded as an easement in favor of the city on the development plat:

1. All fire apparatus access roads shall meet the requirements of IFC 503 and IFC Appendix D including the design capacity, width, turn radius, turn arounds and lengths.
2. The access easement granted to the city for access to and use of the privately owned fire apparatus access road shall comply with the following:
 - 2.1 Will be a permanent easement releasable only by resolution of the city council.
 - 2.2 Will indicate which of the properties are responsible for maintaining the road to provide all-weather driving capabilities.
 - 2.3 Will prohibit any structures from being built within 15 feet on either side of the fire apparatus access road, as measured from the back of the road curb. The distance can be reduced to 7 feet in limited locations where there is sufficient space across the road as approved in advance by the fire department.
3. Fire Lane requirements of section 511, as set forth in city code section 46-444, shall be met for the privately owned fire apparatus access road.
4. Portions of roads, driveways or other pavement that are not needed for compliance with IFC 503.1.1 shall not be required to comply with this section.

Sec. 46-586. One- or Two-family Residential Developments - Access Roads.

Insert New Section D107.3 with the following language:

D107.3 Public Streets. Where two or more fire apparatus access roads are required, all streets throughout the development shall be public streets complying with city code and policy in design and installation standards.

Exemption: Where a fire apparatus access road only serves an isolated portion of the development for compliance with IFC 503, and that isolated portion would not require two fire apparatus access roads, all as determined by designated fire department staff, such fire apparatus access road may be but shall not be required to be a public street.

D107.3.1 Alternative to Public Streets. Where public streets are not required for the development other than as specified in IFC Appendix D or the exemption in city code section 107.3 applies, the fire apparatus access roads shall be permitted, but not required, to be privately owned when the following requirements are met and are recorded as an easement in favor of the city on the development plat:

1. All fire apparatus access roads shall meet the requirements of IFC 503 and IFC Appendix D including the design capacity, width, turn radius, turn arounds and lengths.
2. The access easement granted to the city for access to and use of the privately owned fire apparatus access road shall comply with the following:
 - 2.1 Will be a permanent easement releasable only by resolution of the city council.
 - 2.2 Will indicate which of the properties are responsible for maintaining the road to provide all-weather driving capabilities.
 - 2.3 Will prohibit any structures from being built within 15 feet on either side of the fire apparatus access road, as measured from the back of the road curb. The distance can be reduced to 7 feet in limited locations where there is sufficient space across the road as approved in advance by the fire department.
3. Fire Lane requirements of section 511, as set forth in city code section 46-444, shall be met for the privately owned fire apparatus access road.
4. Portions of roads, driveways or other pavement that are not needed for compliance with IFC 503.1.1 shall not be required to comply with this section.

Section 2. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as provided by law.

FORM APPROVED: Glenna K. Frank, Assistant City Attorney

Connie Boesen, Mayor

Attest: I, Laura Baumgartner, City Clerk of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of an Ordinance (Roll Call No. 25-0794), passed by the City Council of said City at the meeting held on May 19, 2025 and signed by the Mayor on May 19, 2025 and published and provided by law in the Business Record on June 6, 2025. Authorized by Publication Order No. 13028.

Laura Baumgartner, City Clerk