



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
WATER DEPARTMENT
KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR**

*MARK LAWHORNE
Water Superintendent*

HYDRANT USE POLICY

No person shall operate, connect a pipe to, or turn on or off water from, a fire hydrant without a permit issued by the City of Somerville Department of Public Works Water Superintendent, except authorized personnel of the City of Somerville Fire Department or City of Somerville Water Department.

Applications are to be filed at the Water Department Office and must be accompanied by a deposit of \$2,200 to supply a water meter and backflow device and a non-refundable permit application fee of \$200, which covers the cost of installation of the meter and backflow device by City personnel.

Upon approval of a permit, the City will supply and install the meter, backflow device and necessary fittings. The Water Department will inspect the hydrant weekly and will monitor the readings. Water usage will be billed to the permit holder at the end of the usage period; monthly; or at another interval determined by the Water Department. Water usage charges will be subject to minimum usage billing at the end of the usage period, at the then-current commercial billing rates. Hydrant permit holders must contact the Water Department when the meter is no longer needed. **The permit holder will be held responsible for water usage as reflected by the start and end readings of the meter.** At that time the Department will determine if there is damage to the equipment and deduct such damages, along with water charges incurred for water used from the hydrant, from the deposit. The remainder of the deposit will be refunded to the hydrant permit holder. Hydrant permit holders are solely responsible for any and all damage to person or property, including but not limited to the hydrant and water distribution equipment, associated with the use of a hydrant.

Permits will be initially authorized for no longer than a ninety (90) day period. Permits will be valid for only the hydrant location specified in the application. Permits required for a longer time period will need to be reauthorized by the Water Department.

Approved By:

Superintendent of Water Department

Effective Date: _____

Persons who operate, connect a pipe to, or turn on or off water from a hydrant without the proper permit will be subject to a fine of \$300.00 for each offense. Every day that such violation continues will constitute a separate offense. See City of Somerville Code of Ordinances Sec. 11-121. Persons may also be subject to penalties under MGL c. 165, s. 11.

Rev. 6/16

