

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING ALARMS AND ALARM SYSTEMS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Ordinance is to protect the City Public Safety personnel and services from the nuisance and negligent operation of alarm systems while providing the highest level of service to alarm users.

1200.02

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Ordinance, certain words and terms are hereby defined as follows:

Subd. 1. Alarm Systems means an assembly of equipment or devices, either mechanically or electrically operated, arranged or designed to signal the presence of a hazard requiring urgent attention and to which public safety personnel are expected to respond.

Subd. 2. Audible Alarm means a device which, when activated, generates an audible sound on or near the protected premises.

Subd. 3. False Alarms, for the purpose of the Ordinance, means an alarm signal eliciting a response by public safety personnel when a situation requiring a response does not, in fact, exist, which is caused by the activation of the alarm system through mechanical failure, alarm malfunction, improper installation or the inadvertence or misuse by the owner or lessee of an alarm system or his employees or agent. False alarms do not include alarms caused by weather conditions, power failure, or other causes that are clearly beyond the control of the manufacturer or the user of the alarm system.

Subd. 4. Alarm User means the person, firm, partnership, corporation, company or organization of any kind in control of any building, structure or facility wherein an alarm system is maintained.

1200.03

REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Subd. 1. Every person maintaining an audible alarm shall post a notice containing the name and telephone numbers of the persons to be notified during any hour of the day or night that the alarm sounds. Such notice shall be posted at the main entrance to such premises in such a location as to be legible from the ground level adjacent to the building or kept currently corrected and on file with the police or fire department.

Subd. 2. Audible alarms that sound like police or fire sirens are prohibited.

Subd. 3. Audible alarms shall have automatic shut off which will silence the signal

within a period not to exceed 15 minutes.

1200.04 REPORTS REQUIRED

Subd. 1. Alarm users shall provide, upon request and on an ongoing basis, information including, but not limited to:

- (a) Names, address and telephone numbers of alarm user, alarm owner (if different), and alarm servicer.
- (b) Type of alarm and areas protected.
- (c) Keyholder or contact person in the event of alarm problems.

Subd. 2. The alarm user shall, within ten (10) days of receipt of a "Notice of False Alarm", complete and return the provided "False Alarm Report". This report is to be returned to the appropriate City department (police or fire), and must be completed for each and every alarm transmitted.

1200.05 PENALTIES.

Subd. 1. False Fire Alarms. A penalty of \$500.00 shall be paid to the City by the alarm user for each and every false fire alarm, in excess of one (1) false fire alarm, in any calendar year.

Subd. 2. All Other False Alarms. A penalty shall be paid to the City by the alarm user for each false alarm, other than a false fire alarm, in excess of one (1) such false alarm in any calendar year. That penalty shall be \$100.00 for the second false alarm and shall increase by \$25.00 for each succeeding false alarm within the same calendar year.

Subd. 3. Payment of Penalties. All penalties must be paid to the City Treasurer within thirty (30) days of notice by the City to the alarm user. Failure to pay the penalty within thirty (30) days of notice will cause the alarm user to be considered delinquent and subject to an additional fee equal to ten percent (10%) of the penalty. Payment of delinquent penalties may be enforced through civil action.

Subd. 4. Exceptions.

- (a) The United States government, the State, the County, the City or any departments thereof are exempt from the Penalties and Fee Section of this Ordinance.

- (b) The police or fire chief may excuse false alarms when there is evidence that the alarm was a result of an effort or an order to upgrade, install, or maintain an alarm system, or if one or more false alarms result from the same malfunction within a five (5) day period.

1200.05

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its publication according to law.