

CHAPTER 91 ALARMS

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§ 91.01 STATEMENT OF POLICY

(A) The city deems it necessary to provide for the regulation of alarm systems which are designed to signal the presence of a hazard requiring urgent attention to which public safety personnel are expected to respond to order to protect the public safety, health and welfare.

(B) The City Council finds that the regulation of alarm systems is necessary in order to reduce the increasing frequency of false alarms in the city. The great number of and increasing frequency of these false alarms requires intensive, time consuming efforts by the police and fire services and thereby distracts from and reduces the level of services available to the rest of the community. This diminishes the ability of the city to promote the general health, welfare and safety of the community. In consideration for the necessity on the part to the city to provide numerous public safety services to all segments of the community, without an undue concentration of public services in one area to work to the detriment of members of the general public, it is decided that the alarm systems shall be regulated through the permit process decided in this chapter.

§ 91.02 DEFINITIONS

Alarm Systems. An assembly of equipment and devices, a single device such as a solid state unit which plugs directly into a 110 volt AC line or a group of such devices at a single location arranged to signal the presence of a hazard requiring urgent attention and to which police are expected to respond. Fire alarm systems and alarm systems which monitor temperature, humidity or any other condition not directly related to the defection of an unauthorized intrusion into a premises or an attempted robbery at a premises are specifically included in the provisions of this chapter.

Alarm User. The person, residence, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind on whose premises an alarm system is maintained.

Calendar Year. The period January 1 through December 31 of each year.

False Alarm. The activation of an alarm system through mechanical failure, malfunction, improper installation or the negligence of the owner or lessee of an alarm system or of his or her employees or agents. False alarms do not include conditions which are beyond the control of the alarm user such as utility line mishaps, tornadoes, thunderstorms or earthquakes.

§ 91.03 ALARM USER'S FEE REQUIRED

After the second false alarm at the same property address within a calendar year, the alarm user shall be required to pay a false alarm fee to the City. The Police Department and/or Fire Department shall file a written report of each false alarm with the City Administrator. Upon receipt of the first false alarm report at an address, the City Administrator or their designee shall notify the alarm user of the provisions of this chapter. Upon receipt of a third and all subsequent false alarm reports at an address, the City Administrator or their designee shall mail an invoice to the alarm user in the amount outlined on the fee schedule for false alarms. The alarm user has 30 days after receipt of the notice to pay the fee owed to the city.

§ 91.98 VIOLATIONS

Upon the failure of an alarm user to pay the alarm user fee pursuant to § 91.03, an alarm user shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Thereafter and until all alarm user fees are current, each additional false alarm shall be treated as a new offense.