

ORDINANCE NO. O-22-02

AN ORDINANCE FOR FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS

The Town Board of the Town of Stockton, Portage County, Wisconsin, does ordain as follows:

1. **TITLE & PURPOSE** - The title of this ordinance is "An Ordinance for Fire Alarm Systems". The purpose of this Ordinance is to reduce preventable or avoidable false alarms relayed to the Town of Stockton Fire Department. The Town Board finds that the continued high incidence of false alarms is a threat to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens and Fire Department personnel of the Town of Stockton. The high incidence of false alarms causes the significant use of Fire Department resources by the dispatch of emergency units to the scene of nonemergency alarm reports, which renders the responding personnel unavailable to respond to other emergency situations. The Town Board finds that this Ordinance is needed to ensure efficient use of the Town's resources and effective response to requests for emergency aid and is in the public interest. It is further intended that persons who cause unnecessary false alarms should bear the cost of emergency services provided.
2. **DEFINITIONS** - As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:
 - a. **ALARM SYSTEM** - Any device designed for the detection of a fire which, when activated, produces a signal, visual or audible or both, which signal will ultimately result in the dispatching/notification of the Town of Stockton Fire Department.
 - b. **FALSE ALARM**
 - i. Any of the following:
 1. The activation of an alarm system through the negligence of the owner or lessee of an alarm system or of his employees or agents.
 2. The activation of an alarm system through mechanical failure or malfunction because of improper maintenance by the alarm user.
 3. The activation of an alarm system because of improper installation and/or use of the equipment by the alarm business.
 - ii. Such terminology does not include false alarms caused by weather conditions, violent conditions, or by prior arrangements made for testing of the alarm system.
 - c. **SELF-CONTAINED ALARM SYSTEM** - Any device designed for the detection of a fire which, when activated, produces a signal, visible or audible or both, which signal is caused to be transmitted to the general area surrounding the premises to give notice to the public.
3. **NOTIFYING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF ALARM SYSTEM** - Any property owner, tenant, or other person installing an automatic alarm system shall notify the Stockton Fire Department with the following information:
 - a. Name, address, and phone number of the person having an alarm installed
 - b. Location of the alarm in the building or area protected where alarm is installed
 - c. The type of alarm installed
4. **TESTING** - Any property owner, tenant, or other person within the Town of Stockton with an alarm system designed to transmit emergency messages to the Town of Stockton Fire Department shall test or

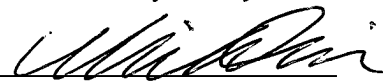
demonstrate their alarm without prior notification to the Stockton Fire Department and Portage County Communication center.


5. FEES FOR ANSWERING FALSE ALARMS -

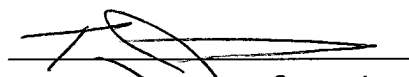
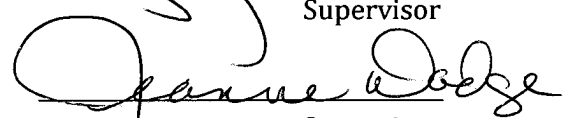
- a. Any property owner, tenant, or other person with an alarm system, including but not limited to a self-contained alarm system, that transmits a false alarm to the Portage County Communication center causing the Stockton Fire Department response shall be subject to the penalty and/or service charge as provided in Subsection 5(c).
- b. If the Stockton Fire Department is cancelled by the Portage County Communication center while responding to an alarm, the alarm user shall still be assessed a fee for a false alarm.
- c. For false alarms in a calendar year resulting in the dispatching of fire personnel, the penalties shall be:
 - i. For the first false alarm, an administrative warning in writing (department letterhead).
 - ii. For the second false alarm, an administrative warning in writing (department letterhead).
 - iii. For the third false alarm, an administrative service charge of \$100.
 - iv. For the fourth false alarm, an administrative service charge of \$250.
 - v. For the fifth and subsequent false alarms, an administrative service charge of \$400
- d. Any property owner, tenant, or other person with an alarm system, including but not limited to a self-contained alarm system, that transmits a false alarm under conditions of 2(b)2 and 2(b)3 in the definition of "false alarm" shall not be assessed administrative service charges as outlined in Subsection 5(c) if, after the second and subsequent false alarms, the alarm system is inspected by a certified and recognized alarm system company. Such inspection must be completed within 21 days following the false alarm and a copy of the inspection report must be provided to the Stockton Fire Department within that time. Failure to have the system inspected shall result in an administrative service charge corresponding to the number of false alarms received within that calendar year. All service charges are due and payable within 30 days upon receipt of the assessment and are collectible as a special charge against the property pursuant to § 66.0627, Wis. Stats.

6. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE - This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage by a majority vote of the Town Board and publication as required by law under § 60.80, Wis. Stats.

Adopted this 24th day of May 2022.

Attest: 
Town Clerk


Town Chair


Supervisor

Supervisor