



City of Oakwood

Department of Public Safety

Dear Alarm System Subscriber:

On October 5, 1981, Oakwood City Council adopted legislation regulating the installation and maintenance of all burglary, fire and medical alert systems. This legislation was passed as a means of correcting the tremendous number of false alarms responded to by police crews each year. The ordinance has been in effect since November 4, 1981.

We are enclosing a copy of the ordinance for your guidance. An alarm application is also being included. All subscribers must complete this form and return it by mail or in person to our Public Safety Department. Subscribers wishing to mail the form should forward it to the attention of the Oakwood Public Safety Department and those who wish to make personal delivery should submit the application to the dispatcher.

In addition to completing the enclosed application, all subscribers who have automatic dialing devices connecting their systems with the Public Safety Department must comply with Section 751.03(a) of this ordinance and pay an annual fee of thirteen dollars and twenty cents (\$13.20). The fee should be submitted with the completed application form. There is no charge for systems that notify the alarm company first. The application, required fees, and other requirements impacting users must be completed and/or met within thirty (30) days of installation.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have in regard to this legislation. Please feel free to call our department at (937) 298-2122.

Sincerely,

Chief Alan Hill

Oakwood Public Safety Department

AH:ds

AN ORDINANCE

BY MR. THOMPSON

NO 3228

TO ADOPT CODIFIED ORDINANCE CHAPTER 751 RELATING TO ALARM SYSTEMS; AND, TO PROVIDE STANDARDS FOR THE INSTALLATION, USE, AND MAINTENANCE OF SUCH SYSTEMS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAKWOOD,
OHIO:

SECTION I.

Chapter 751 of the Codified Ordinances is hereby enacted to read as follows:

"CHAPTER 751

Alarm Systems

751.01	Definitions	751.05	Excessive False Alarms
751.02	Duties of Subscriber and of Vendor	751.06	No Liability on the Part of the City
751.03	Standards Required for Both Existing and Future Alarm Systems	751.07	Penalty
751.04	Standards Required only for Future Alarm Systems		

751.01 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this Chapter certain words and phrases shall be defined as herein set forth:

(a) "Alarm System" means any mechanical or electrical device that is arranged, designed, or used to signal the occurrence in the City of Oakwood of a burglary, robbery, other criminal offense, fire emergency, or medical emergency requiring urgent attention, and to which police, fire, or emergency medical personnel are expected to respond. Alarm systems include those through which Public Safety personnel are notified directly of such signals through automatic recording devices or are notified indirectly by way of third persons who monitor the alarm systems and who report such signals to the Safety Department. Alarm systems also include those designed to register a signal which is so audible, visible, or in other ways perceptible outside a protected building, structure, or facility as to notify persons in the neighborhood beyond the zoning lot where the signal is located, who may in turn notify the Public Safety Department of the signal. Alarm systems do not include those affixed to automobiles. Further, alarm systems do not include auxiliary devices installed by telephone companies to protect telephone equipment or systems which might be damaged or disrupted by the use of an alarm system.

(b) "False Alarm" is any signal created by an alarm system (including but not limited to alarm signals initiated by human error (which signal directly or indirectly notifies Safety Department personnel of the occurrence of a burglary, robbery, other criminal offense, fire emergency or medical emergency when no such emergency exists and when police, fire, or emergency medical personnel are not needed to respond to a burglary, robbery, other criminal offense, fire emergency or medical emergency.

(c) "Subscriber" is any person, firm, corporation, partnership, or entity who or which purchases, leases, contracts for, or obtains an alarm system.

(d) "Vendor" is any person, firm, corporation, partnership, or entity associated with an alarm business or company, either indirectly or directly, whose duties include but are not limited to any of the following: selling, replacing, moving, repairing, maintaining, or installing an alarm system on or in any structure, building, or facility.

751.02 DUTIES OF SUBSCRIBER AND OF VENDOR.

(a) Duties of Subscriber. It shall be the responsibility of each subscriber to see that the standards of installation and maintenance set forth in this Chapter are adhered to.

(b) Duties of Vendor. It shall be the responsibility of any vendor causing installation of or maintaining an alarm system to cause such installation or maintenance to conform to the requirements of the Fire Code and the Electric Code applicable in this City of Oakwood.

(c) Duty of Both Subscriber and of Vendor. Each alarm system shall be utilized only for the purposes of summoning the Public Safety Department for emergency and/or life hazard situations. Without the prior express consent of the Public Safety Department, systems shall not be tested so as to transmit a signal to the Public Safety Department when an emergency or life hazard situation does not exist. It shall be the responsibility of each subscriber and also each vendor not to make such tests.

751.03 STANDARDS REQUIRED FOR BOTH EXISTING AND FUTURE ALARM SYSTEMS.

(a) Notification. Each subscriber must provide to the City of Oakwood on a form provided by the Department of Public Safety the name, address, and telephone number of the subscriber and of the vendor, if any, with whom the subscriber has contracted for maintenance of the alarm system. Each subscriber shall also provide the City with the names, addresses, and phone numbers of those persons (not less than one) who can be contacted 24 hours a day and seven days a week to turn off or deactivate an alarm system. It shall be the obligation of the subscriber to keep this information current and correct through supplementary notifications filed from time to time on the same form.

(b) Designated Telephone Lines. No person shall use or cause to be used an alarm system or device of any kind that automatically dials or calls any telephone line of the offices of the City of Oakwood or any department or division thereof except such telephone line or lines as may be designated by the Public Safety Department of the City for the specific purpose of receiving signals from alarm systems.

(c) Automatic Dialing or Calling Devices. Alarm systems that automatically dial or call a telephone line designated by the Public Safety Department shall comply with the following requirements:

(1) Total length of the recorded message being transmitted to the Public Safety Department (including repetition of message) shall not exceed 30 seconds duration.

(2) The recorded message transmitted shall be repeated not less than two nor more than three times.

(3) The recorded message being transmitted shall incorporate language specifically identifying the message as a "recording" with the balance of the message identifying by street number and street name the location of the emergency and the nature of the event which caused the alarm system to activate. If the location of the event signaled by the alarm system is in a multi-family building or a multi-unit office or commercial building, the message shall also identify by number and by floor the particular dwelling unit, office unit, or commercial unit in which the event occurred.

(4) The recorded message being transmitted to the department shall be appropriate for the purpose for which the alarm system was installed, and the message in its entirety shall be intelligible and spoken in the English language.

(5) The City of Oakwood's cost of providing telephone lines designated for alarm systems that use automatic dialing or calling devices, including any re-occurring fees charged, shall be paid in advance each year to this City by the subscribers. Payment shall be based upon dividing the cost of the telephone service by the number of alarm systems then utilizing such designated phone lines with the quotient thus obtained to be billed annually in advance to each subscriber and to be paid within thirty days of receipt. If not so paid, the system must be disconnected immediately in the manner described in 751.05 (c).

(d) Application of Standards to Existing and Future Alarm Systems.

(1) Every new system installed after the passage of this ordinance shall comply with the above standards.

(2) Every alarm system existing before the passage of this ordinance shall be placed in compliance with the above standards no later than three months after such passage date. The Public Safety Department may elect not to respond to any alarm system that is not in compliance within that time period or may elect to charge each subscriber not in compliance for each such response at a rate of no less than Fifty Dollars per false alarm, or to charge the City's direct and indirect costs for the time, labor, equipment, and other services used in responding to such alarm, whichever is greater.

751.04 STANDARDS REQUIRED ONLY FOR FUTURE ALARM SYSTEMS.

Systems installed after enactment of Chapter 751 shall comply with the following standards as to installation and maintenance (and, in addition, shall also comply with the standards set forth in Section 751.03):

(a) Alarm systems must incorporate a device that allows an adequate delay before the time at which activation of the system would directly or indirectly signal the Public Safety Department or signal other parties who in turn might be expected to notify the Public Safety Department. This delay is to permit the subscriber to stop a false alarm from being transmitted.

(b) The alarm system shall incorporate a device that limits any exterior signal to a period of time not to exceed fifteen minutes in duration. At the expiration of the maximum time permitted, the alarm system shall automatically cease to emit a signal.

751.05 EXCESSIVE FALSE ALARMS.

If any alarm system produces three false alarms in any twelve consecutive months, written notice of that fact shall be given by certified mail or delivery to the subscriber, or other appropriate party (available 24 hours a day and seven days a week) listed in the notification required in Section 751.03 (a) at the addresses listed in the most recent such notification for that alarm system. Thereafter, the Public Safety Director shall have the power to require the subscriber to comply with any one or combination of the requirements set forth below as would minimize, in his judgment, such false alarms in the future:

(a) The subscriber may be charged for the direct and indirect costs to the City of time, labor, equipment, and other services rendered in responding to each subsequent alarm or may be charged \$50.00 per false alarm, whichever is higher. Such charges shall continue for each excessive false alarm until six consecutive months have elapsed during which no false alarms have been registered, and must be paid within 15 days after notice thereof is given in the same manner as provided by this section for notice of excessive false alarms.

(b) The subscriber may be required to cause the alarm system to comply immediately with the applicable standards referred to in Section 751.04 (those standards otherwise being imposed only on alarm systems installed after enactment of this Chapter).

(c) The subscriber may be required to disconnect the alarm system immediately in such fashion that signals are not emitted so as to notify Public Safety personnel directly or indirectly through automatic telephone recording devices or to register a signal which is so audible, visible, or in other ways perceptible outside a protected building, structure, or facility as to notify persons in the neighborhood who may in turn notify Public Safety personnel of the signal.

Notice of the determination of the Public Safety Director shall be given in the same manner as provided by this section for notice of excessive false alarms.

751.06 NO LIABILITY ON THE PART OF THE CITY.

Nothing in this Chapter nor the existence of any other fact(s) shall be construed to require a response by the Public Safety Department to an address or location registering an alarm. The City shall neither assume nor bear any liability for its failure to respond to such an alarm signal.

751.07 PENALTY.

(a) Any person found in violation of 751.02 shall be deemed to have committed a fourth degree misdemeanor.

(b) Any person who fails to adhere to the standards and otherwise comply with Section 751.03 or 751.04 shall be deemed to have committed a minor misdemeanor.

(c) Any person who fails to comply with the specific direction of the Public Safety Director as provided for under 751.03 (d) (2) or Section 751.05 shall be deemed to have committed a third degree misdemeanor."

SECTION II.

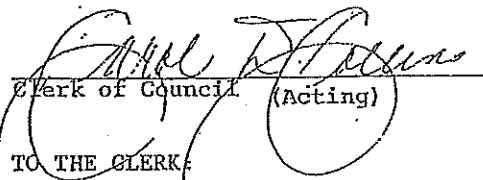
This Ordinance shall take effect from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

5th day of PASSED BY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAKWOOD, this
OCTOBER, 1981.



Mayor

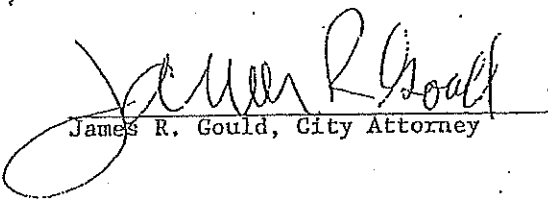
ATTEST:



Clerk of Council (Acting)

TO THE CLERK:

Publish by inclusion in the Codified Ordinances of this City.



James R. Gould, City Attorney

ALARM CARD

ADDRESS		PHONE (home)	
NAME		PHONE (work)	
		PHONE (cell) w/area code	

VENDOR'S NAME	PHONE w/area code	
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ALARM INFORMATION

Intruder		Fire		Rescue		Audible		Silent		Smoke		Heat	
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External Speaker		Local		Dialer		3 rd Party		Direct In	
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Specific Location of Alarm Panel	
Notes	

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

1.	Name		Phone (home)	
	Address		Phone (work)	
			Phone (cell) w/area code	

2.	Name		Phone (home)	
	Address		Phone (work)	
			Phone (cell) w/area code	

3.	Name		Phone (home)	
	Address		Phone (work)	
			Phone (cell) w/area code	

ALARM HISTORY

Date	Time	Type	Status	Disp.	Letter Sent	Date Sent