

CHAPTER 559
Police Emergency Alarms

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CROSS REFERENCES
Making false alarms - see GEN. OFF. 509.07

559.01 DEFINITIONS.

As used in this chapter:

- (a) "Alarm business" means the business by any individual, partnership, corporation or other entity selling, leasing, maintaining, servicing, repairing, altering, replacing, moving or installing any alarm system or causing to be sold, leased, maintained, serviced, repaired, altered, replaced, moved or installed any alarm system in or on any building, structure or facility.
- (b) "Alarm system" means any assembly of equipment, mechanical or electrical, arranged to signal the occurrence of a criminal activity, a fire, a medical emergency or other activity requiring urgent attention and to which Municipal emergency services are expected to respond.
- (c) "Alarm user" means a person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind in control of any building, structure, facility or premises where an alarm system is maintained.
- (d) "Automatic dialing device" means a device which is interconnected to a telephone line and is programmed to select a predetermined telephone number and transmit by a voice message or code signal an emergency message indicating the need for an emergency response.
- (e) "False alarm" means 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/her employees or agents. Such terminology does not include, for example, alarms caused by hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes or other similarly violent conditions or other conditions clearly beyond the control of the user, and does not include activation of an alarm system while the system is being tested to determine whether or not the system is in proper working order, pursuant to established procedures.

- (f) "Interconnect" means to connect an alarm system including an automatic dialing device to a telephone line, either directly or through a mechanical device that utilizes the telephone, for the purpose of using the telephone line to transmit a message upon the activation of the alarm system to the Emergency Communications Center.
- (g) "Local alarms" means those alarms which activate an audible signal within the proximity of the premises only.
- (h) "Issuing authority" means the Chief of Police or his/her issuing designate.
- (i) "Transfer interconnect" means to transfer a message through to a central location, upon activation of the alarm system, to be relayed to the Emergency Communications Center through telephone communication.
(Ord. 1984-87. Passed 10-17-84.)

559.02 ALARM BUSINESS REGISTRATION.

(a) Any individual, partnership, corporation or other entity engaging in an alarm business within the City shall register with the Police Department. Registration shall be made on an annual basis and shall list such information as may be required by the Chief of Police, such information to include the following:

- (1) The name, address and telephone number of the alarm business, the kind of entity it is (individual, partnership, or corporate), and the name, address, and telephone number of the individual proprietor, partners, or directors and principal officers, depending on the nature of the entity applying;
- (2) A description of the alarm systems and devices offered for sale or lease to the public and a description of any services related to alarm devices offered to the public;
- (3) A list of all felony and misdemeanor convictions of individual proprietors, partners, or directors and principal officers of the applicant business, including the date and location of each conviction;
- (4) A statement as to whether the applicant has ever been denied a license or permit in any jurisdiction to engage in the alarm business or has had such license or permit revoked; and
- (5) A statement as to the length of time the applicant has been engaged in the alarm business and where engaged.

(b) Registration of alarm businesses may not be renewed by the Chief of Police in the manner hereinafter set forth if the licensee or any of its owners, partners, principal corporate officers, or the individual having the authority and the responsibility for the management and operation of the alarm business within the City are:

- (1) Found to have violated any of the provisions of this chapter or any rule or regulations of the City which violation the Chief of Police determines to reflect unfavorably upon the fitness of the licensee to engage in the alarm business; or
- (2) Found to have knowingly and willfully given any false information of a material nature in connection with an application for a license or a renewal or reinstatement of a license or in a notice of transfer of an alarm business licensed under this chapter; or

- (3) Found to have been convicted in any jurisdiction of a felony or a misdemeanor if the Chief of Police determines that such conviction reflects unfavorably on the fitness of the applicant to engage in the alarm business; or
- (4) Found to have committed any act while the license was not in effect which would be cause for the revocation of a license, or grounds for the denial of an application for a license.

(c) Continual registration updates shall be made by the alarm business pertaining to changes of service personnel who will be working within the City limits.

(d) Registration application shall be accompanied by a fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per year to cover the costs to the City for processing the applications as provided herein.

(e) Registration renewal is required annually and must be accompanied by a fifty dollar (\$50. 00) registration renewal fee.

(f) No registration issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall be assigned or transferred either by operation of law or otherwise.

(g) All determinations made by the Chief of Police under subsection (b) hereof may be appealed to the Director of Safety. (Ord. 1980-183. Passed 12-3-80.)

559.03 USER REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

(a) Every alarm user in the City shall register each alarm system in use with the Emergency Communications Center.

(b) Each alarm user registering in accordance with the provisions of this chapter shall provide the following information to the Police Department:

- (1) The name, address and telephone number of the protected business, home or other location;
- (2) The name, address, and telephone number of the alarm company which installed or maintains the registrant's alarm system; and
- (3) In the case of a business entity, the names, addresses and telephone numbers of three responsible employees of the business who can be contacted by the Police Department if needed.
(Ord. 1984-87. Passed 10-17-84.)

559.04 FALSE ALARM.

(a) In the event the Emergency Communications Center receives in excess of two false alarms from any system within any calendar month from and after the effective date of this section, the alarm user shall be charged the sum of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per false alarm for each and every false alarm in excess of two false alarms for such monthly period.

(b) The Finance Director shall, upon notification of the Police Chief, give five days notice by regular mail to the alarm user to pay the assessment provided for in the provisions of subsection (a) hereof. In the event the same is not paid within thirty days after the mailing of such notice, then such amount shall be determined to be delinquent and shall be collected in a manner as is authorized by law.

(c) In addition, in the event the assessment provided for in provisions of subsection (a) hereof is not paid within thirty days after the mailing of such notice, notice shall be sent to the alarm user by certified mail, ordering the alarm user to remove all equipment interconnecting the alarm system with the Emergency Communications Center, or stop all local alarm systems or stop operation of all alarm systems of transfer interconnect, which is used to alert the Emergency Communications Center through an alarm business operation. If the removal is not completed within thirty days, the Chief of Police is authorized to contract for such removal at the expense of the alarm user.

(d) Any alarm system disconnected pursuant to the provisions of subsection (c) hereof may be reconnected at the expense of the alarm user provided, however, that the registration provided for by this chapter is completed and all delinquent assessments as provided for in this section are paid in full. (Ord. 1984-87. Passed 10-17-84.)

559.05 GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) The acceptance of any alarm system by the Chief of Police as provided herein shall in no manner place upon the Police or Fire Departments, the Emergency Communication Center, or the City, any additional liabilities than those legally incurred with the Municipal emergency service functions.

(b) All alarm businesses and alarm users shall comply with the scope and intent of this chapter within sixty days of this chapter's adoption.

(c) All alarms intended for receipt at the Emergency Communications Center shall contract for connection with the alarm panel provider as specified by the Police Chief. The provider shall be the exclusive provider on the basis of a competitive bid process. (Ord. 1984-87. Passed 10-17-84.)

559.06 PROHIBITIONS.

(a) No alarm business shall sell, offer or install an alarm system in any business, building, structure or premises in the City, or Fire Department response area, without first completing the procedures of this chapter.

(b) No alarm user shall have installed or operate an alarm system in any business, building, structure or premises in the City, or Fire Department response area, without first completing the registration procedures of this chapter.

(c) No person shall install, cause to be installed, or permit to be installed, any alarm device, by whatever name known, which automatically selects or dials a telephone line for the purpose of reporting an emergency on any telephone line dedicated to the Police Department other than on a telephone line specified on the alarm user permit. No codes or signals shall come in on general emergency telephone lines.

(d) Local alarms shall not resemble the sound of any emergency signal, civil defense alarm or sirens.

(e) No alarms, transmitted by direct interconnect, transfer interconnect or dialer, shall be transmitted to the Emergency Communication Center which is intended to protect any premises outside the City limits, or outside the scope of duties for the Fire Department response district. (Ord. 1984-87. Passed 10-17-84.)

559.99 PENALTY.

(a) Whoever violates any provision of this chapter is guilty of a minor misdemeanor, the penalty for which shall be as prescribed in Section 501.99.

(b) Each day of violation shall constitute a separate offense.
(Ord. 1980-182. Passed 12-3-80)