

CHAPTER 6

FALSE ALARMS

SECTION:

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5-6-1: FINDINGS; PURPOSE:

The City finds that the occurrence of false alarms is a threat to the public health and safety by causing the public to ignore alarms and thereby endanger themselves upon the occurrence of actual emergencies and by causing the unnecessary mobilization of emergency personnel and their diversion from other locations or activities in which assistance may be needed. Many false alarms are caused by equipment which is inadequately maintained or by inadvertent activation of a system by a person legitimately on the premises. The City also recognizes that persons suspecting the existence of an emergency should seek assistance immediately. In order to balance these goals, the City allows one false alarm, but seeks reimbursement for excessive false alarms in order to encourage proper maintenance of alarm systems and security practices. (Ord. 83, 10-12-1993)

5-6-2: DEFINITIONS:

As used in this Chapter, the following words and terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this Section:

!DEF! ALARM SYSTEMS: An assembly of equipment or devices, a single device such as a solid state unit which plugs directly into a one hundred ten (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 emergency personnel are expected to respond. Alarm systems which monitor temperature, humidity or any other condition not directly related to the detection of a fire, an unauthorized intrusion into a premises or an attempted robbery at a premises are specifically excluded from the provisions of this Chapter.

ALARM USER: The person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind on whose premises an alarm system is maintained.

FALSE ALARM: The activation of an alarm system resulting in unnecessary Police or Fire Department assistance. Accidental activations caused by utility mishaps, tornadoes, thunderstorms or earthquakes shall not constitute false alarms. (Ord. 83, 10-12-1993) !DEFEND!

5-6-3: FALSE ALARM FEE:

A. Fee Imposed: If an alarm user incurs more than one false alarm at an address to the Fire Department or the Police Department and has received notice of such false alarm, the alarm user shall be required to pay a fee to the City for each subsequent false alarm. The fee shall be equal to the actual cost to the City in responding to the false alarm, plus an additional administrative fee.

B. Report Of False Alarm: The responding Fire or Police Department shall file a written report of each false alarm with the City.

C. Notice Of False Alarm: Upon receipt of a report of the second and all subsequent false alarms at an address, the City shall, by mail, notify the alarm user of the fee imposed for said false alarm. The alarm user shall have ten (10) business days after receipt of the notice to pay the fee required by this Section.

D. Nonpayment; Lien On Property: Each year the City shall list the total of unpaid false alarm fees against each lot or property to which they are attributable under this Chapter. After notice and hearing, the City Council may spread the unpaid fees against the properties as a special assessment for certification to the County Auditor and collection along with current taxes the following year.

E. Penalty For Nonpayment: Payment of user fees provided for herein must be paid to the City within ten (10) business days from the date of notice by the City to the alarm user. Failure to pay the fee within the ten (10) business days will result in the imposition of a penalty of ten percent (10%) of the user fee. (Ord. 83, 10-12-1993; 1996 Code)

5-6-4: FIRE INSPECTION FEES:

A. Fee Imposed: A fee shall be paid by each business in the City for fire inspection(s). The business shall pay a fee which is equal to the cost of the inspection for the City, plus an additional administrative fee.

B. Report Of Inspection: The Fire Department shall file a report of fire inspections with the City.

C. Notice Of Inspection: Upon receipt of such report, the City shall, by mail, notify each business of the fee imposed for said fire inspection. The business shall have ten (10) business days after receipt of the notice bill to pay the fee required by this Section.

D. Nonpayment: Lien On Property: Each year the City shall list the total of unpaid fire inspection fees against each lot or property (business) to which they are attributable under this

Section. After notice and hearing, the City Council may spread the unpaid fees against the properties as a special assessment for certification to the County Auditor and collection along with current taxes the following year.

E. Penalty For Nonpayment: Payment of fees provided for herein must be paid to the City within ten (10) business days from the date of notice by the City to the fire inspection recipient. Failure to pay the fee within the ten (10) business days will result in the imposition of a penalty of ten percent (10%) of the user fee. (Ord. 83, 10-12-1993)