

City of Woburn Municipal Code
Title XI

XI. ALARM REGULATIONS

8-14 False alarm designated.

A false alarm shall be any activation of an alarm to which the police department responds and which is not caused by a criminal act, fire or other emergency, except an activation caused by:

- (1) malfunction of telephone company equipment or lines off premises as verified by monitoring facilities at police headquarters, or
- (2) power failure as verified by the administrator. A series of such activations attributable to the same cause and occurring under circumstances beyond the control of the responsible alarm user shall be deemed a single false alarm. (Ord. dated 5/24/85 (a): prior Ch. 4 6(A)[part]).

8-15 Administrator for alarm devices.

There shall be in the city, an administrator for alarm devices who shall have the powers and duties granted under these regulations. The chief of police or his designee shall be the administrator of these regulations. (Ord. dated 5/24/85 (b): prior Ch. 4 sec.6(A)[part]).

8-16 Alarm appeal board.

The Alarm Appeal Board shall be made up of the three (3) members of the Committee on Police and License. Ord. dated 5/24/85 (c): prior Ch. 4 sec.6(A)[part]; amended 5/8/98).

8-17 Confidentiality.

All information in the possession of the administrator, for alarm devices concerning particular alarm users and particular communication method shall be confidential and shall not be divulged without the written consent of the alarm user of users concerned. (Ord. dated 5/24/85 (d): prior Ch. 4 sec.6(A)[part]).

8-18 Automatic dial alarm--Police department interconnection.

No automatic dial alarm may be installed after the effective date of the ordinance codified in this part without communication device approval of the administrator. Within six months after the effective date of the ordinance codified in this part, all automatic dial alarms presently in use shall be reprogrammed to dial a designated number with the police department. The automatic dial alarm shall be regulated so as not to repeat the message more than two times. Service for having automatic dial alarm reprogrammed and regulated shall be at the user's expense. (Ord. dated 5/24/85 (e): prior Ch. 4 sec.6(A)[part]).

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8-19 False alarm report to administrator.

Police personnel shall report false alarms to the administrator. (Ord. dated 5/24/85 (f): prior Ch. 4 sec.6(A)[part]).

8-20 False alarm charges--Schedule.

- A. When the administrator determines that the police department has responded to a false alarm the administrator shall impose a charge on the responsible alarm user according to the following schedule: 1. For the first three false alarm responses within the calendar year, no charge; 2. For the fourth and subsequent of such false alarms, twenty-five dollars each alarm response.
- B. In addition to the provisions of this section there shall be no charge for the first false alarm occurring within one month after installation of an alarm device, and such false alarm shall not be considered in determining charges in accordance with the schedule set forth in this section (Ord. dated 5/24/85 (g): prior Ch. 4 sec.6(A)[part]).

8-21 False alarm charges--Notification and appeal.

- A. The administrator shall notify the responsible alarm user of any false alarm charge by mail. Within thirty days after the mailing of such notice, the alarm user may file with the administrator, information to show that the alarm was not a false alarm within the meaning of these regulations.
- B. The administrator shall consider such information, reaffirm or rescind the false alarm charge, and notify the alarm user of his decision by mail. Within thirty days after the mailing of such notice, the alarm user may file an appeal, in writing to the appeal board.
- C. Appeal to the Alarm Appeal Board. Upon receipt of a timely appeal from a false alarm charge, the alarm appeal board shall hold a hearing to consider it and shall mail notice of the time and place of said hearing to the alarm user taking the appeal at his last known address at least fifteen days before the hearing. On the basis of information provided by the alarm user and other information introduced at the hearing, the appeal board shall affirm the charge if it finds that the charge was properly imposed or rescind the charge if the charge was not properly imposed.
- D. Notice to Include Instructions. Each notice of false alarm charge or the reaffirmation of such a charge by the administrator shall refer to and provide instructions concerning the alarm user's right to further recourse by filing information with the administrator or an appeal with the alarm appeal board, as the case may be.

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E. False Alarm Charge. The false alarm charge need not be paid until the user has exhausted his right of appeal. The false alarm charge then must be paid within thirty days from the date of the hearing, and if not paid, will be subject to the same late charges as the Real Estate Tax Bill effective on the date of the hearing. (Ord. dated 5/24/85 (h): prior Ch. 4 sec.6(A)[part]).

8-22 Alarm user registration required.

Each alarm user shall register his alarm device or devices with the administrator prior to use; provided, that the alarm devices in use as of the effective date of the ordinance codified in this part may be registered no later than sixty days from such date. (Ord. dated 5/24/85 (i): prior Ch. 4 sec.6(A)[part]).

8-23 Registration procedure.

A. Alarm device registration shall be accomplished by filling out a form provided by the administrator to include such information concerning the identity of the prospective alarm user, the identity of the alarm user's contractors, if any, and the nature of the proposed communication method, as the administrator may require.

B. It shall be in the responsibility of each alarm user to notify the administrator in writing of changes in registration information. (Ord. dated 5/24/85 (j): prior Ch. 4 sec.6(A)[part]).

8-24 Charges and fees to be paid into general fund.

Charges for false alarms will be collected by the administrator and placed in the general fund. (Ord. dated 5/24/85 (k): prior Ch. 4 sec.6(A)[part]).

8-25 Penalty for violations.

Any person who performs or causes to be performed any of the following acts shall be subject to a fine of up to one hundred dollars for each such act:

- A. Intentional causing of a false alarm;
- B. Failure to register an alarm device or give notice of changes in registration information as required by this part;
- C. Use of automatic dial alarm or an exterior audible alarm device in violation of the provisions of this part. (Ord. dated 5/24/85 (l): prior Ch. 4 sec.6(A)[part]).

8-26 Nonliability of city.

Notwithstanding the provisions of these regulations, the city, its departments, officers, agents and employees shall be under no obligation whatsoever concerning the adequacy, operation or maintenance of any alarm device or of the

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alarm monitoring facilities at police headquarters. No liability whatsoever is assumed for the failure of such alarm devices or monitoring facilities, or for failure to respond to alarms or for any other act or omission in connection with such alarm devices. Each alarm user shall be deemed to hold and save harmless the city, its departments, officers, agents and employees from liability in connection with the alarm user's alarm device. (Ord. dated 5/24/85 sec.(m): prior Ch. 4 sec.6(A)[part]).

8-27 Exceptions for alarms on city premises.

The provisions of these regulations shall not apply to alarm devices on premises owned or controlled by the city, nor to alarm devices installed in a motor vehicle or trailer.(Ord. dated 5/24/85 sec.(n): prior Ch. 4 sec.6(A)[part]).

8-28 Automatic dial alarm - Police department interconnection.

No automatic dial alarm may be installed after the effective date of the ordinance codified in this part without communication device approval of the administrator. Within six months after the effective date of the ordinance codified in this part, all automatic dial alarms presently in use shall be reprogrammed to dial a designated number with the police department. The automatic dial alarm shall be regulated so as not to repeat the message more than two times. Service for having automatic dial alarm reprogrammed and regulated shall be at the user's expense. (Ord. dated 5/24/85 (e): prior Ch. 4 sec.6(A)[part]).

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8-30 False alarm charges--Schedule.

A. When the administrator determines that the police department has responded to a false alarm the administrator shall impose a charge on the responsible alarm user according to the following schedule:

1. For the first three false alarm responses within the calendar year, no charge;
2. For the fourth and subsequent of such false alarms, twenty-five dollars each alarm response.

B. In addition to the provisions of this section there shall be no charge for the first false alarm occurring within one month after installation of an alarm device, and such false alarm shall not be considered in determining charges in accordance with the schedule set forth in this section (Ord. dated 5/24/85 (g): prior Ch. 4 sec.6(A)[part]).

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8-31 False alarm charges--Notification and appeal.

A. The administrator shall notify the responsible alarm user of any false alarm charge by mail. Within thirty days after the mailing of such notice, the alarm user may file with the administrator, information to show that the alarm was not a false alarm within the meaning of these regulations.

B. The administrator shall consider such information, reaffirm or rescind the false alarm charge, and notify the alarm user of his decision by mail. Within thirty days after the mailing of such notice, the alarm user may file an appeal, in writing to the appeal board.

C. Appeal to the Alarm Appeal Board. Upon receipt of a timely appeal from a false alarm charge, the alarm appeal board shall hold a hearing to consider it and shall mail notice of the time and place of said hearing to the alarm user taking the appeal at his last known address at least fifteen days before the hearing. On the basis of information provided by the alarm user and other information introduced at the hearing, the appeal board shall affirm the charge if it finds that the charge was properly imposed or rescind the charge if the charge was not properly imposed.

D. Notice to Include Instructions. Each notice of false alarm charge or the reaffirmation of such a charge by the administrator shall refer to and provide instructions concerning the alarm user's right to further recourse by filing information with the administrator or an appeal with the alarm appeal board, as the case may be.

E. False Alarm Charge. The false alarm charge need not be paid until the user has exhausted his right of appeal. The false alarm charge then must be paid within thirty days from the date of the hearing, and if not paid, will be subject to the same late charges as the Real Estate Tax Bill effective on the date of the hearing. (Ord. dated 5/24/85 (h): prior Ch. 4 sec.6(A)[part]).

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B. It shall be in the responsibility of each alarm user to notify the administrator in writing of changes in registration information. (Ord. dated 5/24/85 (j): prior Ch. 4 sec.6(A)[part]).

8-34 Charges and fees to be paid into general fund.

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C. Use of automatic dial alarm or an exterior audible alarm device in violation of the provisions of this part. (Ord. dated 5/24/85 (l): prior Ch. 4 sec.6(A)[part]).

8-36 Nonliability of city.

Notwithstanding the provisions of these regulations, the city, its departments, officers, agents and employees shall be under no obligation whatsoever concerning the adequacy, operation or maintenance of any alarm device or of the alarm monitoring facilities at police headquarters. No liability whatsoever is assumed for the failure of such alarm devices or monitoring facilities, or for failure to respond to alarms or for any other act or omission in connection with such alarm devices. Each alarm user shall be deemed to hold and save harmless the city, its departments, officers, agents and employees from liability in connection with the alarm user's alarm device. (Ord. dated 5/24/85 sec.(m): prior Ch. 4 sec.6(A)[part]).

8-37 Exceptions for alarms on city premises.

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