

## ALARMS

### § 1. Title.

This local law shall be known as the “Town of Greenville Alarm Devices and Systems Law.”

### § 2. Definitions.

As used in this local law, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

**ALARM SYSTEMS** – A device or an assembly of equipment which is designed to detect smoke, abnormal rise in temperature, fire, medical emergency or any entry into or exit from a building, structure or facility and by reason thereof emits an audible response intended to alert persons outside of the premises and/or transmit a signal or message to an emergency agency either directly or through private answering point.

**EMERGENCY AGENCY** – Any fire, police, 911 or other dispatch center or public or private response agency, without regard as to whether such agency is paid or volunteer.

**NUISANCE ALARM** – The activation of an alarm system which results in a response by fire, police, or ambulance personnel to any place within the Town of Greenville where no fire, police, ambulance, or rescue services are required, as determined by such personnel, including, but not limited to, activation of an alarm system arising from improper use or operation of the alarm system, defective installation of an alarm system, the failure to repair or maintain an alarm system, or the use of defective equipment in connection with an alarm system. Nuisance alarms shall also include alarms in dwelling units and on premises that are triggered as a result of cooking smoke, steam, dust or vapor. A nuisance alarm shall not include:

- A. The activation of an alarm system which results from hurricane, gale, tornado or other violent weather condition, or any major disruption of public utility transmission;
- B. The activation of an alarm system where the activator reasonably believes that an emergency situation exists; or
- C. An activation of a medical alert system.

### § 3. ~~Registration Required.~~

~~A. Effective (date), the owner or occupant of any premises in the Town of Greenville upon which an alarm system is operated shall provide the following information, in writing, to the Building Department:~~

- ~~(1) The name, address and business and residence telephone numbers of the property owner and occupant;~~
- ~~(2) The property location both by street or postal address and tax roll identification number;~~
- ~~(3) The number of individual tenants or subtenants occupying the premises; and~~

~~(4) The name, address and business and residence telephone numbers of at least one other person to receive notice of the activation of the alarm system if the owner or occupant of the premises is not available.~~

~~B. The Building Department shall be notified by the owner or occupant within 15 days of any change in the information previously provided.~~

#### **§4. Automatic cutoff required.**

- A. No person shall install or maintain an external audible alarm device which does not contain an operation automatic cutoff system which turns off the external audible alarm after a period not to exceed 15 minutes.
- B. An automatic dialer connected directly to an emergency agency shall automatically disconnect and/or terminate its message after the message has been transmitted a maximum of two times. Notwithstanding the foregoing, however, the total transmission time of all messages shall not exceed five minutes.

#### **§ 5. Record of false alarms to be maintained**

A. A member of the Fire Department who proceeds to a premises in response to the communication of a signal which is determined to be a false alarm shall, within two hours thereafter, file a written report with the Greenville Building Department setting forth the date, time, premises, location, whether an owner or occupant was present, whether there appeared to be any fire, unlawful entry, intrusion or other damage to the premises and whether it appeared that the alarm signal was activated by a natural disaster as above described.

B. Any Fire Department, Company or District in the Town of Greenville shall maintain a record of the reports of false alarms transmitted to them from premises in the Town of Greenville.

#### **§ 6. Civil Fee.**

The owner and/or lessee of real property to which an emergency agency responds as a result of a false alarm shall pay a fee, after a hearing and determination by the Greenville Town Board, for each such response in each calendar year as set forth below. The Town Clerk shall collect all such fees and shall distribute same in accordance with a motion of the Town Board to be set from time to time.

- A. First three alarm: no fee.
- B. Four + false alarm: \$100/violation at a residential site, \$200/violation at a commercial site.

#### **§ 7. Assessment of costs and expenses**

All costs and expenses incurred by the Town of Greenville in connection with any civil fee or penalty for a false alarm, including attorneys' fees, court costs and other professional fees, and which are unpaid for a period in excess of six (6) months to receive an appearance ticket as a code violation.

**§8. Penalties for offenses.**

Any person that does not pay the fee established in this local law or which violates any other provisions of this local law shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 for residential, \$2,000 for commercial for each offense. A separate offense shall be deemed committed upon each day during which a violation occurs, continues or is permitted.

**§ 9. Enforcement**

The Town of Greenville Code Enforcement Officer or any other peace officer or police officer is hereby authorized to enforce this local law.

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