

RESOLVED that the Greenwich Alarm Ordinance is amended as follows:

ALARM DEVICES

CHAPTER 2A. ALARM DEVICES

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CHAPTER 2A. ALARM DEVICES.

Sec. 2A-1. Legislative determination.

It is determined that the number of false alarms being made to the Police and Fire Departments hinders the efficiency of those Departments, lowers the morale of Department personnel, constitutes a danger to the general public in the streets during responses to false alarms and jeopardizes the response of volunteers; and that the adoption of this chapter will reduce the number of false alarms and promote the responsible use of alarm devices in Greenwich by the alarm user.

(RTM, § 1, 4/14/1980; RTM, § 1, 12/13/1982.)

Sec. 2A-2. Definitions.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) Alarm device - Any device which, when activated by a criminal act, fire or other emergency calling for Police or Fire Department response, transmits a signal to Police or Fire Department headquarters; transmits a signal to a person who relays information to Police or Fire Department headquarters; or produces an audible or visible signal to which the Police or Fire Departments are expected to respond. Excluded from this definition and the scope of this chapter are devices which are designed to alert or signal only persons within the premises in which the device is installed.

(b) Alarm user - The owner of any premises in which an alarm device is used, provided that an occupant who expressly accepts responsibility for an alarm device by registration pursuant to Section 2A-5 shall be deemed the "alarm user ."

(c) Automatic dial alarm - A telephone device or attachment that mechanically or electronically selects a telephone line to Police or Fire Department headquarters or to the 911 system and reproduces a prerecorded voice message to report a criminal act, fire or other emergency calling for Police or Fire Department response. Excluded from this definition are devices which relay a digital-coded signal to Police or Fire Department headquarters.

(d) Central station -An office to which remote alarm devices transmit signals where operators monitor those signals and relay information to the Police and Fire Departments.

(e) Contractor -Any person, firm or corporation in the business of supplying and installing alarm devices or servicing the same.

(f) False alarm -Any activation of an alarm device to which the Police or Fire Department responds and which is not caused by a criminal act, fire or other emergency.
(RTNI. § 2. 4/14/1980; RTM. § 2. 2/13/1982.)

Sec.2A-3. Administrator.

(a) There shall be in the town an administrator for alarm devices which shall have the powers and duties granted to it under this chapter.

(b) The Finance Department shall be the administrator under the direction and control of the Board of Estimate and Taxation, which is authorized to adopt regulations for the administration of this chapter.
(RTM. § 3, 4/14/1980; RTM. § 3. 12/13/1982.)

Sec. 2A-4. Alarm Appeal Board.

(a) There shall be in the town an Alarm Appeal Board which shall have the powers and duties granted to it under this chapter.

(b) The Alarm Appeal Board shall consist of five (5) members, who shall be appointed by the Representative Town Meeting on nomination by the Board of Selectmen. All members shall be electors of the town and shall serve without compensation. Three (3) members shall be appointed for terms expiring March 31, 1982, and two (2) members for terms expiring March 31, 1984. Further appointments, except to fill vacancies, shall be for terms of four (4) years commencing on April 1. Appointed members shall serve until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified. Vacancies in the membership shall be filled for the unexpired portion of a term in the same manner as regular appointments.

(c) Three (3) members of such Board shall constitute a quorum. All decisions shall be by a majority of those present and voting.
(RTM, § 4. 4/14/1980; RTM, § 4. 12/13/1982.)

Sec. 2A-5. Notice, registration of alarm devices required.

(a) No person, firm or corporation shall install an alarm device without first providing the alarm administrator with the name, address and phone number of the owner and of the occupant (if different) of the premises wherein an alarm device is to be installed.

(b) Each alarm user shall register his alarm device or devices with the administrator prior to use.
(RTM, § 5, 4/14/1980; RTM, § 5, 12/13/1982; RTM, § 1, 1/15/1991.)

Sec. 2A-6. Alarm device 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 contractor, if any, and the nature of the proposed alarm device as the administrator may require. The administrator shall issue the alarm user a written acknowledgment of proper registration.

(b) It shall be the responsibility of each alarm user to notify the administrator of changes in registration information. (RTM, § 6, 4/14/1980; RTM, § 6, 12/13/1982.)

(c) Each alarm device registration shall expire on July 1 of each year and must be renewed annually by submitting an updated registration form to the administrator. The administrator shall notify each alarm user of the need to submit an updated

registration thirty (30) days prior to the expiration date. It shall be the responsibility of the alarm user to submit an updated registration form prior to the expiration date. Failure to do so will be classified as use of a non-registered alarm device and penalties shall be assessed in accordance with Section 2A-23.

(d) Each alarm user shall pay an annual registration fee in the amount of twenty dollars (\$20.).

(e) The amount of the annual registration fee may be raised or lowered from time to time at the discretion of the Board of Estimate and Taxation without further approval of the Representative Town Meeting.

Sec. 2A-7. Registration of central stations required.

Each central station which plans to transmit signals to the Police or Fire Department must register with the administrator before doing so. (RTM, § 7, 12/13/1982.)

Sec. 2A-8. Central station registration procedure.

(a) Central station registration shall be accomplished by filling out a form provided by the administrator to include such information as the administrator may require concerning the identity of the applicant, the type of its business organization (individual proprietorship, partnership, corporation), the principal place of business of the entity, the location of the office monitoring alarms, the staffing of that office and the alarm users in Greenwich served by the station. The administrator shall issue the central station a written acknowledgment of proper registration.

(b) It shall be the responsibility of each central station to notify the administrator of changes in the registration information, but such notification need not be given more frequently than once a month. (RTM, § 8, 12/13/1982.)

Sec. 2A-9. Registration of contractors required.

Each contractor shall register with the administrator. (RTM, § 9; 12/13/82.)

Sec. 2A-10. Contractor registration procedure.

(a) Contractor registration shall be accomplished by filling out a form provided by the administrator to include such information concerning the identity of the applicant, the type of its business organization (individual proprietorship, partnership, corporation), the principal place of business of the entity, the places of business from which Greenwich alarm users will be served, the types and makes of equipment sold and/ or installed and

the types and makes of equipment the contractor is qualified to service. The administrator shall issue the contractor a written acknowledgment of proper registration.

(b) There shall be a fee of twenty dollars (\$20.) for each registration accepted.

(c) The amount of the contractor registration fee may be raised or lowered from time to time at the discretion of the Board of Estimate and Taxation without further approval of the Representative Town Meeting.

(d) It shall be the responsibility of each contractor to notify the administrator of changes in the registration information. (RTM, § 10, 12/13/82.)

Sec. 2A-11. New automatic dial alarms prohibited.

No automatic dial alarm may be installed after October 10, 1980. No automatic alarm device in use on such date may remain in use after July 1, 1983. (RTM, § 8,4/14/80; as amended by RTM, § 11, 12/13/82.)

Sec. 2A-12. Transmission of digital-coded signals prohibited.

(a) After the publication of this chapter, the administrator will not permit the registration of an alarm device which transmits a digital-coded signal to either the Police Department or the Fire Department unless the alarm user has received special authorization in accordance with Section 2A-12(b).

(b) A commercial establishment or a not-for-profit institution may have a direct line to the Police Department or Fire Department, provided that:

(1) The connection is by a high grade, dedicated line meeting specifications that may be established by the departments concerned.

(2) The police or Fire Department determines that the level of risk and exposure justifies a direct line.

(3) The Police or Fire Department has notified the administrator of its approval of such a direct line.

(c) After July 1, 1983, signals that result from the activation of an alarm device for which a direct connection has not been authorized in accordance with Section 2A-12(b) must be transmitted to a central station which, after such verification as is practicable, will transmit the alarm to the Police Department or Fire Department. (RTM, § 12, 12/13/82.)

Sec. 2A-13. Exterior audible devices.

Unless required by law, no alarm device which produces an exterior audible signal shall be installed unless its operation is automatically restricted to a maximum of thirty (30) minutes.

(RTM, § 9, 4/14/80; as amended by RTM, § 13, 12/13/82.)

Sec. 2A-14. Reporting of false alarms.

(a) The Police Department and Fire Department shall report false alarms to the administrator, based upon the report of the investigating officer.

(b) It shall be the responsibility of the central station to attempt to verify every alarm activation, except a duress or hold up alarm activation, before requesting a police response to an alarm activation.

(c) It shall be the responsibility of the central station to notify the alarm user or his designated keyholder whenever the central station reports an alarm activation to the Police Department or Fire Department
(RTM, § 10, 4/14/1980; RT1V1, § 14, 12/13/1982.)

Sec. 2A-15. Charges for false alarms.

When the administrator determines that the Police Department or Fire Department has responded to a false alarm, the administrator shall impose a charge on the responsible alarm user according to the following schedule:

(a) For the first false alarm within the town's fiscal year: no charge.

(b) For response by either the Police Department or the Fire Department –

(1) for the second false alarm: fifty dollars (\$50.);

(2) for the third false alarm: one hundred dollars (\$100.);

(3) for the fourth false alarm: one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.);

(4) for the fifth and subsequent false alarms: two hundred dollars (\$200.).

(c) For response by both the Police Department and the Fire Department, an additional charge of \$50 will be added to the applicable fine, except for the first false alarm within the Town's fiscal year.

Following the payment of the applicable charge for a false alarm, an alarm user may present to the administrator an invoice of repair of the alarm device causing the false alarm, which invoice of repair shall be reviewed by the Alarm Appeal Board. If the Alarm Appeal Board deems the invoice of repair to be satisfactory, the Alarm Appeal Board may then make a finding that such false alarm shall not be counted against subsequent false alarms for the alarm user within the Town's fiscal year, (RTM, § 11, 4/14/1980; RTM, § 15, 12/13/1982; RTM, § 2, 1/15/1991.)

Sec. 2A.16. Notification of charges.

(a) The administrator shall notify the responsible alarm user of any false alarm charge by mail. Within thirty (30) 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 this chapter.

(b) The administrator shall consider such information, reaffirm or rescind the false alarm charge and notify the alarm user of its decision by mail. Within thirty (30) days after the mailing of such notice, the alarm user may file with the Alarm Appeal Board an appeal, in writing. (RTM, § 12,4/14/1980; RTM, § 16,12/13/1982.)

Sec. 2A-17. (Reserved)

1 Editor's Note: Former § 2A-17. Required inspection; suspension of registration, added 12/ 13/1982. was repealed 1/15/1991.

Sec. 2A-18. Appeals procedure.

(a) Upon receipt of a timely appeal from a false alarm charge or a registration suspension, 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 (15) days before the hearing. On the basis of information provided by the alarm user and other information introduced at the hearing, the Board shall affirm the charge or suspension, if it finds that the charge or suspension was properly imposed, or rescind the charge or suspension, if it finds the charge or suspension was not properly imposed.

(b) There shall be a non-refundable administrative fee of ten dollars (\$ 10.) for each appeal to the Alarm Appeal Board.

(c) The amount of the fee for taking an appeal may be raised or lowered from time to time at the discretion of the Board of Estimate and Taxation without further approval of the Representative Town Meeting. (RTM, § 12, 13, 4/14/1980; RTM, § 18, 12/13/1982.)

Sec. 2A-19. Notices to include instructions.

Each notice of a false alarm charge, the reaffirmation of such a charge by the administrator or the suspension of a registration 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. (RTM, § 12, 4/14/1980; RTM, § 19, 12/13/1982.)

Sec. 2A-20. Information to be confidential.

All information in the possession of the administrator, the Alarm Appeal Board, the Police Department or the Fire Department concerning particular alarm users and particular alarm devices shall not be divulged without the written consent of the alarm user or users concerned, except that information as to the frequency of false alarms experienced by an individual alarm user may be supplied to the contractor who installed or who currently has a contract to service that user's alarm device. (RTM, § 7, 4/14/1980; RTM, § 20, 12/13/1982.)

Sec. 2A-21. Information to be compiled.

The administrator, Police Department and Fire Department shall, with respect to each and every false alarm, compile information concerning; alarm devices, contractors and sources of false alarms in a form such that the information may be evaluated in terms of relative reliability of different sorts of alarm devices and particular contractors and the frequency of false alarms attributable to different categories of sources. All alarm activations, including those not considered false alarms as defined herein shall be cross-referenced by the administrator with such compiled information to determine if the alarm device has been registered in accordance with Sections 2A-5 and 2A-6. If it is determined that the alarm device has not been registered, the administrator shall notify the alarm user in writing, of the registration procedures for such alarm device. Failure of the alarm user to register such alarm device following notification by the administrator shall result in penalties pursuant to Section 2A-23. (RTM, § 15, 4/14/1980; RTM, § 21, 12/13/1982.)

Sec. 2A-22. Disclaimer of liability.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, the town, 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 and Fire Department headquarters. No liability whatsoever is assumed for the failure of such alarm devices or monitoring facilities or for the failure to respond to alarms or for any other omission in connection with such alarm devices. Each alarm user shall be deemed to hold and save harmless the town, its departments,

officers, agents and employees from liability in connection with the alarm user's alarm device.

(RTM, § 16, 4/14/1980; RTM, § 22, 12/13/1982.)

Sec. 2A-23. Violations and penalties.

Any person who performs or causes to be performed any of the following acts shall be subject to penalties as follows for each such act:

(a) Failure to register an alarm device, within thirty (30) days of notification by the administrator: fifty dollars (\$50.); within sixty (60) days of notification by the administrator: two hundred dollars (\$200.).

(b) Failure to give notice of changes in registration information, within thirty (30) days of notification by the administrator: fifty dollars (\$50.); within sixty (60) days of notification by the administrator: one hundred dollars (\$100.).

(c) Installing an alarm device without first providing the alarm administrator with the name, address and phone number of the owner and of the occupant (if different) of the premises wherein the alarm device is to be installed, within thirty (30) days of notification by the administrator: fifty dollars (\$50.); within sixty (60) days of notification by the administrator: one hundred dollars (\$100.).

(d) Use of an automatic dial alarm or an exterior audible alarm device in violation of the provisions of this chapter: one hundred dollars (\$100.).

(RTM, § 17, 4/19/1980; RTM. § 23, 12/13/1982: RTM, § 4, 1/15/1991.)

(e) The amount of the penalties in this Section 2A-23 may be raised or lowered from time to time at the discretion of the Board of Estimate and Taxation without further approval of the Representative Town Meeting.

Sec. 2A-24. Charges and fees to be paid into general fund.

Charges for contractor registration, charges for false alarms, appeal fees and penalties for violations shall be collected by the administrator and placed in the general fund.

(RTM, § 14, 4/14/1980; RTM, § 24, 12/13/1982.)

Sec. 2A-25. Enforcement.

The town, upon authorization of the administrator, may institute civil proceedings to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

(RTM, § 18, 4/14/1980; RTM, § 25, 12/13/1982.)

Sec. 2A-26. Applicability.

The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to alarm devices on premises owned or controlled by the town, including the Board of Education, the State of Connecticut or the government of the United States nor to alarm devices installed in a licensed motor vehicle, trailer or boat.

(RTM, § 19, 4/14/1980; RTM, § 26, 12/13/1982.)