

ORDINANCE NO. 3363

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 4-4-1 (DEFINITIONS), to repeal Sections 4-4-4 through 4-4-8 and to add a new Section 4-4-4 (CHARGES FOR FALSE ALARMS), all of Chapter 4 (SECURITY ALARMS), Title 4 (PUBLIC SAFETY) of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Section 4-4-1 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended and reordained to read as follows:

Sec. 4-4-1 Definitions.

(a) **Audible alarm.** A device located at the protected premises which generates an audible signal when activated. This device is designed to signal a breach of security.

(b) **Automatic dialing device.** A device at the protected premises which is interconnected to the telephone line and is programmed to select a telephone number which terminates at the Alexandria Police Department and transmits a pre-recorded voice message or code which signals the existence of criminal activity at the protected premises.

(c) **False alarm.** Any security alarm signal, whether or not from an audible alarm system, communicated directly or indirectly to the Alexandria Police Department which is not in response to actual or threatened criminal activity requiring an immediate police response, including signals which are negligently, accidentally or inadvertently activated, which are the result of faulty, malfunctioning or improperly installed or maintained equipment and which are purposely activated to summon the police; provided, that a false alarm shall not include a signal activated by unusually severe weather conditions or other causes which are determined by the chief of police or his designee to be beyond the control of the user.

(d) **Person.** Any individual, group or persons, firm, partnership, company, corporation or association of any kind.

(e) **Protected premises.** The premises upon which a security alarm system is located.

(f) **Security alarm system.** Any assembly of equipment or a device designated to detect and signal unauthorized intrusion, attempted burglary, robbery or other criminal activity at the protected premises. A security alarm system may include a system connected to a central station or any other system which directly signals the police department.

(g) User. Any person using a security alarm system regardless of whether or not the person owns the premises on which the security alarm system is located.

Section 2. That Section 4-4-4 through Section 4-4-8 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be and the same hereby are repealed.

Section 3. That Chapter 4, Title 4 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be and the same hereby is amended by adding a new Section 4-4-4 to read as follows:

Sec. 4-4-4 Charge for false alarms.

Service charges shall be imposed, in accordance with this section, for false alarms which result in a response by one or more police officers to protected premises. No service charge shall be imposed for the first false alarm in any six-month period which results in a response by one or more police officers to the protected premises. A service charge of \$35 shall be imposed for the next false alarm which results in a police response to the same premises, if the alarm occurs within six months of the first false alarm. A service charge of \$50 shall be imposed for the next false alarm which results in a police response to the same premises, if the alarm occurs within six months of a false alarm for which a \$35 service charge was imposed under this section. A service charge of \$50 shall be imposed for every subsequent false alarm which results in a police response to the same premises and which occurs within six months of a false alarm for which a \$50 service charge was imposed under this section. Any service charge imposed under this section shall be billed to the user by, and payment shall be made to, the director of finance.

Section 4. That this ordinance shall become effective upon the date and at the time of its final passage.

JAMES P. MORAN, JR.
Mayor

Final Passage: April 15, 1989