

BOROUGH OF VERONA

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF VERONA, RELATING TO ALARM SYSTEMS, PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SUCH SYSTEMS; FOR THE REVOCATION OF SAID PERMITS; REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION BY OWNERS OF SAID ALARM SYSTEMS WITH VERONA BOROUGH FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SAID ALARM SYSTEMS, AND PROVIDING FOR FINES, AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ORDINANCE.

WHEREAS, many of the emergency alarms to which Verona Borough Police, Volunteer Fire Department and emergency personnel response are false; and

WHEREAS, false alarms are herewith deemed to be nuisances resulting in a waste of municipal manpower and creating the potential for serious injury to police officers, fire department personnel, and other emergency personnel responding to a false alarm; and

WHEREAS, when the said personnel are responding to false alarms, they are not available for the protection of residents and the general public of the Verona Borough Police territory; and

WHEREAS, the danger created by emergency responses from false alarms is unnecessary and hazardous; and

WHEREAS, the unnecessary waste of public revenue through responses to false alarms should be eliminated; and

WHEREAS, false alarms have created conditions causing danger and annoyance to the general public; and

WHEREAS, Council for the Borough of Verona desires to recoup lost revenue as a result of multiple false alarms imposing a fee upon the owner or resident of the property from where the false alarm was generated; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED, and it is hereby ordained and enacted by Council of the Borough of Verona, County of Allegheny, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as follows:

SECTION 1: TITLE.

This Ordinance shall be known as the “Verona Borough False Alarm Ordinance”.

SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS.

- (a) **Alarm System** is defined to mean any device designed or used for detection of intrusion into a building, structure or facility or for alerting persons in the attempt or commission of a crime or an emergency situation involving potential death or serious injury and which is directly connected to an audible alarm or the transmission of a related signal or message which is used to evoke an emergency response to any address or separate component of any system.
- (b) **False Alarm** is defined to mean any signal activated by an automatic protection device, any audible alarm or any other kind of direct or indirect signal given to which police, fire department or emergency response agencies respond which is not the result of an attempted illegal entity, burglary, intrusion, fire, medical or other similar emergency, excluding weather extremes and utility interruptions, which activates a protection device. Any activation of an alarm system caused by any malfunction caused by violent natural catastrophic condition including electrical storms or power outages or conditions beyond the control of the permittee will not constitute a false alarm.
- (c) **Emergency Department** is defined to mean any municipal agency including police, fire, and any other duly constituted municipal authority, including, but not limited to, the Allegheny County Communications and/or Monroeville 911 Center.

SECTION 3: ADOPTION AND AUTHORITY.

The Verona Borough Council, by authority granted to them as specified in the Pennsylvania Borough Code, 53 Pa. C.S.A. §45101 et seq., as amended, hereby enacts the herein Ordinance which shall be supplemental to enforcement under the Pennsylvania Crimes Code Section 7511 (18 Pa. C.S.A. §7511 (1998) together with all other laws and

statutes of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Ordinances of the Borough of Verona.

SECTION 4: FALSE ALARMS PROHIBITED.

It shall be unlawful for the property owner, lessee or any person occupying or otherwise on any premises within Verona Borough to make or cause to be made, a false fire or security alarm, directly or indirectly, to any police, fire department or emergency response agency responding to alarms within the Borough. A person and/or entity that causes or permits to be caused a false alarm violates this ordinance.

SECTION 5: PENALTIES AND FINES.

- (a) Any person or other entity who, after receiving notice, written or oral, from the Verona Borough Police, that Police, Emergency Personnel or other municipal officials, have responded to ONE (1) false alarm as defined in this Ordinance during one (1) calendar year shall thereafter pay a service fine of \$30.00 for a SECOND false alarm in the same calendar year, \$50.00 for a THIRD false alarm in the same calendar year, and \$100.00 for the FOURTH and each subsequent false alarm thereafter, in the same calendar year, plus the costs of prosecution.
- (b) For the purpose of determining the number of false alarms, the repeated alarms in a twenty-four (24) hour period shall be deemed as one false alarm.

SECTION 6: CONFIDENTIALITY.

The information furnished and secured pursuant to this Ordinance shall be confidential in character and shall not be subject to public inspection other than as allowed by Pennsylvania law, and all records shall be so maintained that the contents thereof shall not be divulged to anyone except to the persons charged with the administration of this Ordinance.

SECTION 7: SEVERABILITY.

Should any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance be declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance in its entirety or any part thereof, other than that so declared invalid.

SECTION 8: ENFORCEMENT.

Enforcement of this Ordinance shall be supplemental to enforcement under the Pennsylvania Crimes Code Section 7511. (18 Pa. C.S.A. Section 7511 (1998).

SECTION 9: REPEALER.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances, which are inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 11: EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall be effective five (5) days from the date of its adoption and advertisement.

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF VERONA

Jerome Kenna, Borough Manager

Patrick McCarthy, Council President

Examined and approved by me this _____ day of _____, 2020.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

David P. Ricupero, Mayor

Craig H. Alexander, Solicitor