

**BOROUGH OF OAKLAND
ORDINANCE NO. 20- CODE-812**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING
THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE
BOROUGH OF OAKLAND TO STANDARDIZE AND
REGULATE ALARM SYSTEMS WITHIN THE BOROUGH.**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland has determined that there is a need to standardize and regulate alarm systems within the Borough; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oakland as follows:

Section 1. Purpose and Scope.

- A. Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to provide standards and regulations in the Borough for various types of local alarms, intrusion, burglar, fire and other emergency alarm devices, whether by direct line, radio, telephone or other means, requiring response thereto by the Police Department, Fire Department or other municipal agencies.
- B. Scope. The provisions of this chapter shall apply to any person who operates, maintains or owns any alarm device or local alarm designed to summon the Police or Fire Departments or other municipal agencies to any location in response to any type of alarm signal. The terms of this chapter shall in no way prohibit alarm companies from providing service by private source to other offices within or without the Borough; except, however, that any person having a premises protected by an alarm device shall still be responsible for the registration thereof in accordance with Section 3 hereof.

Section 2. Definitions.

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

ALARM DEVICE - Any type of alarm system providing warning of intrusion, fire, smoke, flood or other peril.

ALARM INSTALLATION - Any alarm device or combination of devices installed for one or more buildings.

DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE - Shall be limited to a member of the Police Department of the Borough.

FALSE ALARM - Any alarm actuated by inadvertence, negligence or the unintentional act of someone other than an intruder and shall include, as well, alarms caused by malfunctioning of the alarm device or other relevant equipment.

LOCAL ALARM - Any alarm or device which, when actuated, produces a signal, such as store burglar alarms actuating bell devices.

PERSON - Any person as defined in Chapter _____ Sections 1-2 of the Code of the Borough of Oakland owning an alarm device or local alarm within the scope of this chapter.

Section 3. Registration Required.

- A. The one-time initial registration fee is \$25. The application shall contain at least the location of the device, the name of the installer of the device, the name of the person responsible for maintenance of the device, the type of the device, provisions relating to false alarms and testing procedures, a list of persons to be contacted in the event of an alarm, including cell phone numbers and email addresses, and other information as may be required by the Chief of Police. Any person who owns or operates an alarm device or a local alarm shall update the alarm information annually with the Police Department to allow continuance thereof.
- B. Local alarms and alarm devices: on or before February 1 of each year or within 15 days from the installation of said alarm.

Section 4. Time Limit on Audible Alarms; Code Designation System.

- A. All audible alarms shall be equipped with a time relay or battery to limit the sounding of an alarm to 15 minutes or less with an automatic reset mechanism.

Section 5. False Alarms; Fines.

- A. In the case of a false alarm, any person having knowledge thereof shall immediately notify the Police Department in a manner to be prescribed by rules and regulations in accordance with Section 5 hereof. In addition, in the case of false alarms, the Chief of Police shall cause an investigation to be made and shall keep a record of the alarms on file.
- B. For false alarms, the Mayor and Council prescribed the following penalties:

- (1) For the first and second false alarms in any given calendar year, a warning shall be issued in the form of an email, unless a different form is otherwise specified in the application.
- (2) For the third false alarm in the same calendar year, a fine of \$25 shall be paid to the Borough.
- (3) For the fourth false alarm and subsequent false alarms, a fine of \$50 shall be paid to the Borough.

Section 6. Promulgation of Additional Rules and Regulations.

The Chief of Police may promulgate written rules and regulations supplementing this chapter in order to provide for recordkeeping and efficient management of the system, provided that the Borough Council shall first approve the rules or any changes thereto by appropriate resolution.

Section 7. Violations and Penalties.

Any person, firm or corporation found guilty in the Municipal Court of the Borough in violation of the terms of this chapter shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$750.

Section 8. Should any part, portion or provision of this ordinance be held unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of this ordinance as a whole, or any other part thereof.

Section 9. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 10. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon publication and final passage according to law.

ATTEST:

Linda H. Schwager, Mayor

Lisa M. Duncan, Borough Clerk