

ORDINANCE NO. 1180-A

INTRODUCED BY COMMISSIONER: Henry Balensifer

ADDING CHAPTER 9.16 – FALSE ALARMS - TO
THE WARRENTON MUNICIPAL CODE

The City of Warrenton Ordains as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 9.16 of the Warrenton Municipal Code is hereby added to read: FALSE ALARMS.

Section 2. 9.16.010 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

- (A) “Alarm System” shall mean any assembly of equipment, mechanical or electrical, arranged to signal the occurrence of an illegal entry, fire, or other activity requiring urgent attention and to which public safety officers are expected to respond.
- (B) “Alarm User” shall mean a person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company, or organization of any kind in control of any building, structure, or facility wherein an alarm system is maintained.
- (C) “False Alarm” shall mean an alarm signal, eliciting a response by public safety officers when a situation requiring a response by the public safety officers does not in fact exist, but does not include an alarm signal caused by violent conditions of nature or extraordinary circumstances not reasonably subject to control by the alarm business operator or alarm user.
- (D) “Public Safety Officer” shall mean a member of the fire or police department, employed by or volunteers for the city.

Section 3. 9.16.020 False Alarms.

- (A) Signals from an alarm system which are false are a nuisance.
- (B) Beginning with the third false alarm in any calendar year, the city shall impose a fee of \$25. The forth and subsequent false alarm will result in a fee of \$50 for each occurrence.
- (C) Any alarm user delinquent in payment of false alarm fees in excess

of 60 days shall have the account submitted to collections and an additional fee of 50% of the total will be applied to the account.

Section 4. 9.16.030 Alarm Testing.

Whenever an alarm user or alarm system salesperson deems it necessary to test or otherwise intentionally set off or activate an alarm system, he or she shall notify the Police Department or Fire Department of the test or otherwise intentional activation of an alarm prior to actual testing being conducted. The Police Department should be notified if the activation is a security alarm and the Fire Department should be notified if the activation is a fire alarm. Failure to do so shall result in that user being considered as having a false alarm.

Section 5. 9.16.040 Unlawful to Program Device Into 911 Line.

It is unlawful for any person to program an automatic dialing device to call a 911 line, the Warrenton Police Station, or the Warrenton Fire Station.

Section 6. 9.16.050 Administration and Appeal.

At such times as an alarm user or alarm system salesperson disagrees with determinations relating to the designation of a "False Alarm," he or she may appeal in writing to the City Manager and shall receive a determination. He or she may then appeal in writing and request a hearing before the City Commission. The decision of the City Commission will be final.

Section 7. 9.16.060 Penalty.

- (A) A violation of any provision of this ordinance may be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00.
- (B) Each violation of a separate provision of this ordinance shall constitute a separate offense, and each day that a violation of this ordinance is committed or permitted to continue shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 8. This Ordinance shall become effective thirty days after its adoption by the Commission and approved by the Mayor.

PASSED by the City Commission of the City of Warrenton this 23rd day of July, 2013.


First Reading: 7/9/13
Second Reading: 7/23/13

Approved



Mark Kujala, Mayor

Attest



Linda Engbretson, City Recorder