



## ORDINANCE 2014-014

### AMENDING SHERWOOD MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 8.08 ALARM SYSTEMS

**WHEREAS**, the City of Sherwood Municipal Code requires alarm owners to register their alarm system with the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the existing code provisions governing an alarm owner's responsibility for alarm systems dates back to 1989 and was revised in 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, the alarm permit code was instituted to mitigate the number of false alarms and the cost of public safety officers responding to false alarms; and

**WHEREAS**, staff completed a cost benefit analysis for the alarm registration process and determined that the process is no longer necessary due to the small number of false alarms responded to annually; and

**WHEREAS**, excessive false alarms can be mitigated through a code violation process; and


**WHEREAS**, the City would like to update and revise these provisions and replace the existing provisions with new provisions.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY OF SHERWOOD ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1.** Sherwood Municipal Code Chapter 8.08 is hereby amended. The revised code language is attached to this ordinance as Exhibit A.

**Section 2.** This ordinance will be effective 30 days after its adoption.

**Duly passed by the City Council this 5th day of August 2014.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Middleton, Mayor

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sylvia Murphy, MMC, City Recorder

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Clark	<u>✓</u>	<u>    </u>
Langer	<u>✓</u>	<u>    </u>
Butterfield	<u>absent</u>	<u>    </u>
Folsom	<u>Absent</u>	<u>    </u>
Grant	<u>✓</u>	<u>    </u>
Henderson	<u>✓</u>	<u>    </u>
Middleton	<u>✓</u>	<u>    </u>

## 8.08.010 Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

"Alarm business" means the business by any individual, partnership, corporation, or other entity of selling, leasing, maintaining, servicing, repairing, altering, replacing, moving, or installing any alarm system or causing to be sold, leased, maintained, serviced, repaired, altered, replaced, moved or installed any alarm system in or on any building, structure, or facility.

"Alarm system" means any assembly of mechanical or electrical equipment arranged to signal the occurrence of an illegal entry or other activity requiring urgent attention and to which city police are expected to respond, provided, however, that automobile alarm systems are not included in this definition. All alarm systems installed in the city, except for medical alert alarms, shall include an external visual display.

"Alarm user" means the person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company, or organization of any kind in control of any building, structure, or facility in which an alarm system is maintained.

"Automatic dialing device" means a device which is connected to a telephone line and is programmed to select a predetermined telephone number and transmit by voice message or code signal an emergency message indicating a need for emergency response.

"City" means the city of Sherwood.

"Dispatch center" means the city facility used to receive emergency and general information from the public.

"False alarm" means an alarm signal eliciting a response by city police when a situation actually requiring such a response does not in fact exist.

"Interconnect" means to connect an alarm system, including an automatic dialing device, to a telephone line, either directly or through a mechanical device that utilizes a telephone, for the purpose of using the telephone line to transmit a message upon the activation of the alarm system.

"Primary trunk line" means a telephone line serving the dispatch center that is designated to receive emergency calls.

*(Ord. 06-019 § 1 (part): Ord. 89-894 § 1)*

### **8.08.020 User instructions.**

Every alarm business selling, leasing, installing or furnishing alarm systems in the city shall provide the alarm user with instructions enabling the user to operate the alarm system properly, to disarm malfunctioning systems and to obtain service for a leased alarm system.

*(Ord. 06-019 § 2: Ord. 89-894 § 4)*

### **8.08.030 Automatic dialing device—Certain interconnections prohibited.**

A.

It is unlawful for any person to program an automatic dialing device to select a primary trunk line or any 911 prefix requiring a police response; and it is unlawful for an alarm user to fail to disconnect or reprogram an automatic dialing device which is programmed to select a primary trunk line within twelve (12) hours of receipt of written notice from the Sherwood police department that it is so programmed.

B.

Within sixty (60) days after the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter, all existing automatic dialing devices in the city programmed to select a primary trunk line shall be reprogrammed or disconnected.

C.

It is unlawful for any person to program an automatic dialing device to select any telephone line assigned to the city; and it is unlawful for an alarm user to fail to disconnect or reprogram such device within twelve (12) hours of receipt of written notice from the Sherwood police department that an automatic dialing device is so programmed.

*(Ord. 89-894 § 15)*

### **8.08.040 Response to alarms.**

A.

Whenever an activated alarm system requires a police department response to the premises in which the system is installed, the city police at the scene of the alarm shall inspect the area protected by the system and shall determine whether the emergency response was in fact required as indicated by the alarm system or whether the alarm was a false alarm.

B.

If the city police at the scene of the alarm determine the alarm to be false, a written report of the false alarm shall be made.

*(Ord. 89-894 § 6)*

### **8.08.050 False alarms.**

A.

Except as provided in Section 8.08.060, any alarm system that produces a false alarm, shall receive written notice posted at the address directing the alarm user to take all necessary corrective action and informing the alarm user of the false alarm.

B.

Except as provided in Section 8.08.060, an alarm system producing more than two false alarms in a calendar year, shall be deemed in violation of this chapter and a Class D citation will be assessed against the alarm user.

*(Ord. 06-019 § 3 (part); Ord. 89-894 § 7)*

### **8.08.060 Continuous alarms.**

Any alarm system producing an alarm that cannot be shut-off by responding city police and that continuously operates for a period greater than sixty (60) minutes, shall be treated as a Class C violation of false alarm.,

*(Ord. 06-019 § 3 (part); Ord. 89-894 § 9)*

### **8.08.070 Allocation of revenues.**

All penalties collected pursuant to this chapter shall be deposited to the city general fund.

*(Ord. 06-019 § 3 (part); Ord. 89-894 § 11)*