

- **Sec. 5-1. - Definitions.**

(a)

Alarm. A signal (audio, visual or live) transmitted indicating a possible emergency condition. Said alarm is received either:

(1)

Via a private alarm service company relayed to the Altamonte Springs Police Department telephone.

(2)

Via a third party.

(b)

False alarm. The activation of an alarm, by any means, which does not represent the indicated emergency condition.

(c)

Cancellation alarm. An alarm dispatch or response discontinued, prior to a police officer arriving on scene, due to verification with the alarm company that there is no longer an existing situation requiring law enforcement.

(d)

Police chief. The Chief of the Altamonte Springs Police Department, or his or her designee.

(e)

Valid alarm for cause. An alarm activated for the cause designated (burglary, robbery, etc.).

(Ord. No. 1526-05, § 1, 9-6-05)

- **Sec. 5-2. - Duty of owner of premises.**

(a)

The owner of a premises is responsible for the registration of all security alarm systems with the Altamonte Springs Police Department and shall be liable to the city for all service fees charged for false alarms. The lessee of a premises shall also be considered "the owner of a premises" for purposes of this chapter. The registration form shall include, but is not limited to, the following information:

(1)

The name(s), address, business and home telephone number of the owner, lessee, operator, manager or person in possession of the premises wherein the alarm system is installed.

(2)

The name, address and telephone number of a minimum of three (3) persons who can be notified by the police department, in the event of the activation of the alarm system, who shall be capable of responding to the premises within twenty (20) minutes and who are authorized to enter the premises to ascertain the status thereof.

(3)

The date of activation of the alarm system when any of the information required in subsections (1) or (2) has changed, it shall be reported to the police department by the owner within ten (10) days of such change.

(b)

Prior to the installation or substantial modification or use of an alarm system which is defined in subsection 5-1(a) the owner of the premises shall furnish the Altamonte Springs Police Department with such information as the department deems necessary to provide adequate response to the alarm.

Newly installed or substantially modified systems shall be allowed to operate for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of installation or modification without penalty for false alarms, provided the police department is notified of the installation or modification in advance of same.

(c)

Owners of an alarm system shall provide response to the alarm location, when requested, in order to reset or disable the alarm system within one (1) hour of notification. Failure to provide such response shall result in a charge of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each such occurrence.

(d)

All alarm systems having an audible or visual signal at the premises shall be so equipped as to automatically shut off the audible or visual signal after fifteen (15) minutes, except those systems required by law to have a longer operating period in which case such system shall be so equipped so as to automatically shut off the audible or visual signal of the conclusion of the longer required operating time.

(e)

All alarm systems shall be properly maintained. System malfunctions due to faulty maintenance shall not be grounds for an excused false alarm, and false alarms attributable to power outages, weather conditions, power surges, insects and/or animals shall not be excusable under subsection 5-3(d).

(Ord. No. 1526-05, § 1, 9-6-05)

• **Sec. 5-3. - Response to alarms, corrective action, reports required and fees charged.**

(a)

For each response by the police department to an alarm, the department will cause a posting to be entered into the database, classifying the alarm as one of the following:

(1)

False alarm;

(2)

Valid alarm for cause;

(3)

Cancellation alarm.

(b)

Upon the reception of a third false alarm within six (6) months, the police department shall issue a warning invoice to the owner of the premises involved; except that for multiple false alarms within a forty-eight-hour period, the warning invoice shall not be required prior to the imposition of a service charge/false alarm fees as set forth in this chapter.

(c)

There shall be a service fee charged for false alarms according to the following schedule:

First response (none in last six (6) months) No fee

Second response (within six (6) months) No fee

Third response (within six (6) months) Warning

Fourth response (within six (6) months) \$100.00 fee

Fifth response and up (within six (6) months) 250.00 fee

(d)

If, within thirty (30) days from the occurrence of a false alarm, the owner can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the police chief that the alarm system in question has actually been examined by a

repair service authorized by the system manufacturer and repaired, if such repaired malfunction was the cause of the false alarm, and providing the false alarm was not caused by occupant error, such false alarm shall not be considered a false alarm for the purpose of such 503(c) [subsection (c)] and the owner shall be exempt from any fees for that alarm except for an administrative fee as set forth in this subsection.

Number of false alarms in a running six-month period	Fee
First through third	\$ 0.00
Fourth	10.00
Fifth and above	25.00

(e)

Upon failure of an owner of a premises to pay any fee specified above within thirty (30) days, the chief of police shall be authorized to disconnect or order the disconnection of the alarm, and it shall be unlawful to reconnect or fail to disconnect such alarm unless and until appropriate corrective action has been taken and such connection of an alarm is authorized by the chief of police. No disconnection or deactivation shall be ordered or made as to any premises required by law to have an alarm in operation. The owner shall be responsible for all costs incurred in collecting the service fee including attorney's fees.

(f)

Failure of the owner to correct malfunctions or pay such fines as applicable by this chapter could, at the discretion of the chief of police, or his or her designee, result in the police department not responding to the alarm location.

(Ord. No. 1526-05, § 1, 9-6-05)

- **Sec. 5-4. - Penalties.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to violate or fail to comply with any of the provisions of this chapter and anyone convicted thereof, in addition to the penalties and fees set forth in this chapter, may be punished as provided in the Code of Ordinances of the City of Altamonte Springs, section 1-14.

(Ord. No. 1526-05, § 1, 9-6-05)

- **Sec. 5-5. - Reserved.**