

LEGISLATIVE DRAFT

Chapter 5.56 BURGLAR ALARMS

5.56.010 Purpose

~~The public has purchased burglary and robbery alarm systems which either mechanically malfunction or are not operated properly by their users, causing an increase in false alarm reports which require a response from the Police Department, thus needlessly diverting limited police resources. The purpose of this chapter is to set forth the regulations governing the use of burglary and robbery alarm systems, the requirement for permits and the establishment of fees and penalties for violations. (2025-1/76, 2486-6/81, 3121-1/92)~~

5.56.020 Definitions

~~"Alarm system" means any mechanical or electrical device which is designed or used for the detection of an unauthorized entry into a building, structure or facility, or for alerting others of the commission of an unlawful act within a building, structure or facility, or both, and which emits a sound or transmits a signal or message when activated. Alarm systems include, but are not limited to, indirect digital dial telephone devices, audible alarms and proprietor alarms. Devices which are not designed or used to register alarms that are audible, visible, or perceptible outside of the protected building, structure or facility are not included within this definition nor are telephone devices or auxiliary devices installed by the telephone company to protect telephone company systems which might be damaged or disrupted by the use of an alarm system.~~

~~"Applicant" means a person, firm, or corporation who or which files an application for a permit as provided in this chapter.~~

~~"Audible alarm" means that type of alarm system which, when activated, emits an audible alarm.~~

~~"False alarm" means an alarm signal which requires police response where an emergency situation does not exist.~~

~~"Nonresponse status" shall mean that category in which an alarm system is placed as a result of permit suspension or revocation; therefore, the Police Department will not respond to the alarm system.~~

~~"Notice" means written notice, served personally or mailed, postage prepaid, addressed to the person to be notified at his or her last known address. Service of such notice shall be deemed effective upon completion of personal service or upon deposit of such notice in the United States mail.~~

~~"Permittee" means any person, firm, partnership, association, or corporation who or which shall be granted a permit, as provided herein, and his or her or its agents and representatives.~~

~~"Proprietor alarm" means an alarm which is not serviced by an alarm business.~~

~~"Signal channel" means a telephone line or other method of transmitting signals other than by the use of a telephone, which signal channels shall be caused to be installed and used by the permittee for the purpose of delivering a signal to the monitor.~~

~~"Standards, regulations, requirements and duties" means the minimum standards and regulations for the construction and maintenance of all alarm systems installed within the City, as prescribed by the Police Chief, and adopted by resolution of the City Council. All devices shall meet or exceed such standards and regulations before permits may be issued pursuant to this chapter. The Police Chief may require inspection and approval of all alarm systems installed within the City.~~

~~"Subscriber" means any person who purchases, leases, contracts for or otherwise obtains an alarm system or for the servicing or maintenance of an alarm system from an alarm business. (2025-1/76, 2486-6/81, 3121-1/92)~~

5.56.030 Registration Required

~~No person shall engage in, manage, conduct or operate an alarm business in the City of Huntington Beach without first registering with the City license division on appropriate forms, and providing the following information:~~

- ~~A. Name of the business, and if a corporation, its name, date and place of incorporation and address of its principal place of business, together with the name and business telephone number of the owner or manager.~~
- ~~B. A list of the addresses, business and emergency telephone numbers of all central stations handling accounts in the City.~~
- ~~C. A list of all subscribers, both private and commercial, together with the addresses where alarm systems have been installed, updated as new installations are added.~~

~~Such registration shall be accompanied by a file copy of the alarm company operator's state identification card. (2176-3/77, 2304-9/78, 2486-6/81, 3121-1/92)~~

5.56.040 Permit Required

- ~~A. **Alarm System.** No person shall install or use an alarm system without first applying for and receiving an alarm permit therefor in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.~~
- ~~B. It will be the responsibility of the alarm company, and/or the user of an alarm system, to ensure that an original permit has been obtained prior to activation of the system. Failure to do so may constitute grounds to revoke the alarm company's right to install, service and/or monitor alarm systems in Huntington Beach. In the event an alarm permit is not obtained, and after an alarm system user has been notified by mail or by personal service to obtain~~

~~an alarm system permit, they will be given 30 days to comply or the alarm system will be placed on nonresponse.~~

~~C. **Audible Alarm Requirements.** Every person, corporation, or business maintaining an audible alarm shall post a notice containing the name(s) and telephone number(s) of the person(s) to be notified to render repairs or service and secure the premises during any hour of the day or night that the alarm system is activated. Such notice shall be posted near the alarm in such a position as to be legible from ground level adjacent to the building where the alarm system is located.~~

~~D. Alarm companies and/or their monitoring services shall first attempt to verify all alarm activations prior to requesting the police be dispatched. Verification can be accomplished by secondary activation devices, television cameras, telephonic inquiry, or by having a person at the location of the alarm check the system. (2486-6/81, 2593-2/83, 3121-1/92, 3273-1/95)~~

5.56.050 Exemptions

~~The provisions of this chapter are not applicable to audible alarms affixed to motor vehicles or to a public utility whose only duty is to furnish telephone service pursuant to tariffs on file with the California Public Utilities Commission. (2486-6/81, 3121-1/92)~~

5.56.060 Permit Procedures—Fee

~~Applications for permits, required hereunder, shall be filed, together with payment of a fee established by resolution of the City Council, with the Police Chief on forms furnished by him or her containing necessary information to evaluate and act upon the application including, but not limited to, the name, address and telephone number of the person who will render service or repairs during any hour of the day or night. All permits shall be renewed annually. It shall be the responsibility of the permittee to apply for renewal of the permit at least 10 days prior to the expiration of any existing permit. (2486-6/81, 2593-2/83, 3121-1/92, 3273-1/95)~~

5.56.070 Notice of Change

~~Whenever any change occurs relating to the written information required on application forms, the applicant or permittee shall give written notice thereof to the Police Chief within a reasonable time not to exceed 10 days after such change or at any hearing conducted under the provisions of this chapter if such hearing is conducted before the notice required has been given. (2486-6/81, 3121-1/92)~~

5.56.080 Permit Revocation

~~A. Upon evidence that any provision of this chapter has been violated, and written notice (of revocation) thereof has been served upon the permittee,~~

either by personal service or by regular mail, the Police Chief may suspend an alarm permit for a period of 15 days, beginning on date of personal service or the day after mailing, during which time such alarm system shall not be used and shall be placed on nonresponse status.

B.—The failure of permittee to repair, replace or operate the system properly, or to pay the alarm permit fee and/or the false alarm prevention fees within the 15-day period, or to file an appeal to the City Council, as provided in this chapter, shall cause the suspended permit to be revoked and the alarm system shall be placed on nonresponse status and shall not be used until a new permit has been issued and all outstanding fines and permit fees have been paid.

C.—However, an alarm system placed on nonresponse status may be reinstated to full response status by complying with the City Alarm Ordinance. To reinstate to full response status, the permittee shall show evidence that the system has been repaired, replaced and/or that the persons who have been operating the system improperly have been duly trained and instructed in the proper operation of the system. The evidence shall consist of work orders, canceled checks, or adequate proof of training and instruction. (2486-6/81, 3121-1/92)

5.56.090 Appeal to City Council

A.—Within the 15-day suspension period, the permittee may appeal to the City Council by filing with the City Clerk a statement, addressed to the City Council, setting forth the facts and circumstances regarding the action to the Police Chief.

B.—The City Clerk shall cause the appeal to be placed on the next available City Council agenda and notify the appellant. The City Council shall consider the appeal and may affirm, overrule, or modify the decision of the Police Chief. The Council may appoint a hearing officer, who shall gather the facts, listen to argument and prepare a report and recommendation to the Council. The hearing officer may be a City employee. The City Council may accept, reject, or modify the officer's recommendation or seek a further report. The decision of the City Council shall be final.

C.—All fees paid by permittee shall be forfeited in the event of revocation. Enforcement of a revocation notice shall be stayed during the pendency of an appeal therefrom, properly and timely filed. (2486-6/81, 3121-1/92)

5.56.100 False Alarm—Prevention Payment

A.—When the emergency alarms, messages, signals or notices received by the Police Department which show a failure to comply with the requirements of this chapter, the Police Chief may demand that the owner or lessee disconnect the alarm system until it is made to comply with such requirements.

~~B.—The owner or lessee of any alarm system which has caused any signal, message, or alarm to be transmitted to the Police Department, either by direct telephone or other direct communication, or by communication from an alarm agent, or an alarm business, or by a person responding to an audible alarm, and which is proved to be a false alarm, shall pay a false alarm prevention fee, established by resolution of the City Council, as follows:~~

~~1.—For false alarms in excess of two received in a 12-month period the owner or lessee shall be assessed a fee for each such alarm, and the fee shall be increased for each subsequent false alarm received in a 12-month period.~~

~~The permittee shall only be charged with one false alarm in any 24-hour period. This allows the permittees adequate time to notify their alarm servicing company and have any repairs, replacement, or adjustments implemented prior to being charged another false alarm.~~

~~2.—Any false alarm indicating robbery is occurring (a violation of California Penal Code Section 211); however, “residential,” “panic” or “hold up” false alarms, classified as 927A, Unknown Trouble Residential Alarm, will be considered as regular false alarms (459s) for fine calculations.~~

~~3.—For false alarms in excess of seven received in a 12-month period by the Police Department, the property owner or lessee, and the systems alarm servicing company shall be notified in writing that the system is to be placed on a nonresponse status and the permit shall be revoked if the problem is not resolved within 15 days.~~

~~C.—**Exception.** If the user shows that the false alarms were the result of conditions beyond his or her control and not the result of negligence on the user’s part or that of his or her employees and the user demonstrates that he or she neither knew of the defect in the alarm system, nor in the exercise of due care, should have known of such defect, such alarm shall not be deemed a “false alarm” within the meaning of this chapter. (Thereupon, a 15-day adjustment period to correct mechanical problems may be allowed for any new, improved or replaced alarm system.) (2025-1/76, 2486-6/81, 3121-1/92, 3273-1/95)~~

5.56.110 Permit Nontransferable

~~No alarm permit issued under the provisions of this chapter shall be assignable or transferable. (2486-6/81, 3121-1/92)~~

5.56.120 Automatic Shutoff Requirements—Audible

~~All audible alarm systems, excluding fire alarms which indicate the activation of an automatic fire sprinkler system, shall include a device which will limit the generation of the audible sound of the system to no longer than 10 minutes after~~

activation when the alarm system is protecting a residential structure, and 15 minutes when the alarm system is protecting a commercial structure. Said system, however, shall include an automatic resetting device which shall cause the system to rearm upon automatic shutoff. (2486-6/81, 3121-1/92)

5.56.130 Repair

After a false alarm caused by a malfunction of the alarm system, the alarm system permittee shall repair the alarm system in order to eliminate such malfunction before reactivating the alarm. No person shall reactivate such alarm until such repairs have been made. (2486-6/81, 3121-1/92)

5.56.140 Testing Alarm

Permittees shall notify the police communication bureau prior to any service, test, repair, maintenance, adjustment, alteration, or installation of systems which would normally result in a police response to a false alarm. Any alarm activated where such prior notice has been given shall not constitute a false alarm, as defined in this chapter. (2025-1/76, 2486-6/81, 3121-1/92)

5.56.150 Prohibitions

It shall be unlawful to install or use an alarm system which upon activation emits a sound similar to sirens used on emergency vehicles or for civil defense purposes. (2486-6/81, 3121-1/92)

5.56.160 Limitation on Liability

The City of Huntington Beach is under no obligation or duty to any permittee or any other person by reason of any provision of this chapter, or by the exercise of any privilege by any permittee hereunder including, but not limited to, any defects in a police or fire alarm system, any delay in transmitting an alarm message to any emergency unit or damage caused by delay in responding to any alarm by any City officer, employee or agent. (2486-6/81, 3121-1/92)

5.56.170 Application of Chapter

Any person who, on the effective date of this chapter, possesses, has installed, or uses an alarm system which requires a permit under the provisions hereof, shall apply for a permit, as provided herein, within 90 days after the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter. (2486-6/81, 3121-1/92, 3173-1/95)

5.56.180 Right of Entry

The Police Chief, or his or her designated representative, is hereby authorized and empowered to inspect any alarm system installed in any business within the City during regular business hours. Inspections of systems installed in private residences may be made with permission of the occupant of the premises only. (2025-1/76, 2486-6/81, 3121-1/92)

5.56.200 Penalties for Violation

~~Any person who violates or willfully fails to comply with any section in this chapter is guilty of an infraction except where expressly provided, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$500.00, and each such person shall be guilty of a separate offense for each and every day or portion thereof during which any violation of any of the provisions of this chapter is committed, continued, or permitted. (2025-1/76, 2486-6/81, 3121-1/92, 3273-1/95)~~

5.56.210 Automatic Dialing Devices

~~It shall be unlawful for any person to program an automatic dialing device to select any telephone line assigned to the City, and it shall be unlawful for an alarm user to fail to disconnect or re-program such device within 12 hours of receipt of notice from the Police Department that an automatic dialer is so programmed. (3273-1/95)~~

5.56.220 Enforcement Provision

~~The Police Department is directed to administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter. (2486-6/81, 3121-1/92, 3273-1/95)~~

5.56.230 Constitutionality

~~If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this chapter is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this chapter. The City Council of the City of Huntington Beach hereby declares that it would have adopted this chapter and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portions thereof, and amendments thereto, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, phrases or portions, or amendments be declared invalid or unconstitutional. (3273-1/95)~~

5.56.240 Adoption/Repeal

~~Neither the adoption of this chapter nor the repeal of any ordinance shall in any manner affect the prosecution for violation of ordinances which violations were committed prior to the effective date hereof, nor be construed as affecting any of the provisions of such ordinance relating to the collection of any license or penalty of the penal provisions applicable to any violation thereof, required to be posted, filed or deposited pursuant to any ordinance and all rights and obligations thereunder appertaining shall continue in full force and effect. (3273-1/95)~~

ALARM SYSTEMS

5.56.010 Purpose

The City of Huntington Beach Council finds and declares that:

A. The vast majority of alarms to which the Police Department responds are False Alarms, which are reported to the Police by alarm companies.

B. Most False Alarms are the result of improper maintenance or improper or careless use of an Alarm System.

C. The public and Police Officers are subjected to needless danger when the Officers are called to respond to False Alarms.

D. Officers responding to False Alarms are not available to carry out other Police duties.

E. In the interest of using limited Police resources most effectively and efficiently, the number of False Alarms can and must be reduced.

F. The purpose of this Chapter is to reduce the dangers and inefficiencies associated with False Alarms and to encourage alarm companies and property owners to maintain the operational reliability, properly use Alarm Systems, and to reduce or eliminate False Alarm Dispatch Requests.

G. This Chapter governs systems intended to summon a Police response, establishes fees, fines, establishes a system of administration, sets conditions for the suspension of a Police response and establishes a public education and training program.

5.56.020 Definitions

For purposes of this Chapter, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

A. "Alarm Administrator" means the Person or Persons designated by the Police Department to administer the provisions of this Chapter.

B. "Alarm Agreement" means the legal contract or agreement by and between the Alarm Installation Company and/or Monitoring Company and the Alarm User.

C. **"Alarm Agreement Holding Company"** means the Alarm Installation Company or Monitoring Company that holds the Alarm Agreement with the Alarm User.

D. **"Alarm Installation Company"** means a Person in the business of selling, providing, maintaining, servicing, repairing, altering, replacing, moving or installing an Alarm System at an Alarm Site for compensation, and includes individuals or firms that install and service Alarm Systems used in a private business or proprietary facility.

E. **"Alarm Dispatch Request"** means a notification to the Police Department that an alarm, either manual or automatic, has been activated at a particular Alarm Site.

F. **"Alarm Registration"** means a registration and unique Number issued by the Alarm Administrator to an Alarm User, which authorizes the operation of an Alarm System.

G. **"Alarm Response Manager (ARM)"** means a Person designated by an Alarm Installation Company and Monitoring Company to handle alarm issues for the company and act as the primary point of contact for the City's Alarm Administrator.

H. **"Alarm Site"** means a location served by one or more Alarm Systems. In a multi-unit building or complex, each unit shall be considered a separate Alarm Site if served by a separate Alarm System. In a single unit building that houses two or more separate businesses with separate Alarm Systems, each business will be considered a separate Alarm Site.

I. **"Alarm System"** means a device or series of devices, which emit or transmit an audible or remote visual or electronic alarm signal, which is intended to summon Police response. The term includes hardwired systems, surveillance cameras and systems interconnected with a radio frequency method such as cellular or private radio signals, and includes Local Alarm Systems, but does not include an alarm installed in a motor vehicle or a system which will not emit a signal either audible or visible from the outside of the building, residence or beyond, but is designed solely to alert the occupants of a building or residence.

J. **"Alarm User"** means any Person who has contracted for Monitoring, repair, installation or maintenance service for an Alarm System from an Alarm Installation Company or Monitoring Company, or who owns or operates an Alarm System which is not monitored, maintained or repaired under agreement.

K. "Alarm User Awareness Class" means a class conducted for the purpose of educating Alarm Users about the responsible use, operation, and maintenance of Alarm Systems and the problems created by False Alarms.

L. "Alarm User List" means a list provided by the Alarm User's Alarm Installation Company or if no Alarm Agreement exists between the Alarm User and an Alarm Installation Company, the Alarm User's Monitoring Company.

M. "Arming Station" means a device that controls an Alarm System.

N. "Automatic Voice Dialer" means any electronic, mechanical, or other device which, when activated, is capable of being programmed to send a prerecorded voice message to the Police Department or City requesting an officer dispatch to an Alarm Site.

O. "Burglar Alarm" means an alarm intended to identify the presence of an intruder in either a business or residence.

P. "Business License" means a Business License issued by the City of Huntington Beach Business License division to an Alarm Installation Company or Monitoring Company to conduct business in the City.

Q. "Cancellation" means the termination of a Police response to an Alarm Site after an Alarm Dispatch Request is made but before an officer's arrival at the Alarm Site.

R. "Conversion of Alarm User" means the transaction or process by which one Alarm Installation Company or Monitoring Company begins the servicing or monitoring of a previously unmonitored Alarm System or an Alarm System that was previously serviced or monitored by another alarm company.

S. "City" means City of Huntington Beach.

T. "Duress Alarm" means a silent Alarm System signal generated by the entry of a designated code into an Arming Station in order to signal that the Alarm User is being forced to turn off the system and requires an officer response.

U. "Enhanced Call Confirmation" (ECC) means an attempt by the Monitoring Company, or its representative, to contact the Alarm Site and/or Alarm User and/or the Alarm User's designated representatives by telephone and/or other electronic means, whether or not actual contact with a Person is made, to determine whether an alarm signal is valid before requesting a Police Burglar Alarm Dispatch, in an attempt to avoid an unnecessary Alarm Dispatch Request. For the purpose of this Chapter, telephone confirmation shall require, as a minimum that a second call be made to a different number, if the first

attempt fails to reach an Alarm User who can properly identify themselves to determine whether an alarm signal is valid before requesting an officer dispatch. Names and numbers or those contacted or attempted to contact, shall be provided when requested.

V. **"False Alarm"** means an Alarm Dispatch Request to the Police Department, which results in the responding officer finding no evidence of a criminal offense or attempted criminal offense after completing an investigation of the Alarm Site.

W. **"Holdup Alarm"** means a silent alarm signal generated by the manual activation of a device intended to signal a robbery in progress.

X. **"Local Alarm System"** means an unmonitored Alarm System that annunciates an alarm only at the Alarm Site or is a self-monitored Alarm Site.

Y. **"Monitoring"** means the process by which a Monitoring Company receives signals from an Alarm System and relays an Alarm Dispatch Request to the Police Department.

Z. **"Monitoring Company"** means a Person in the business of providing Monitoring services.

AA. **"One Plus Duress Alarm"** means the manual activation of a silent alarm signal by entering a code that adds one number to the last digit of the normal arm/disarm code (e.g., normal code = 1234, one plus duress code = 1235).

BB. **"Panic Alarm"** means an Alarm System signal generated by the manual activation of a device intended to signal a life threatening or emergency situation requiring an officer response.

CC. **"Person"** means an individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, association, organization or similar entity.

DD. **"Police Department"** means the Huntington Beach Police Department.

EE. **"Protective or Reactive Alarm System"** means an Alarm System that produces a temporary disability or sensory deprivation through use of chemical, electrical, sonic or other means, including use of devices that obscure or disable a Person's vision.

FF. **"Registration Number"** means a unique individual number assigned to an Alarm User as part of Alarm Registration issued by the Police Department.

GG. "Responsible Party" means a Person capable of appearing at the Alarm Site upon request who has access to the Alarm Site, the code to the Alarm System and the authority to approve repairs to the Alarm System.

HH. "Robbery Alarm" means an alarm signal generated by the manual or automatic activation of a device, or any system, device or mechanism on or near the premises intended to signal that a robbery is in progress and that a Person is in need of immediate Police assistance in order to avoid bodily harm, injury or death. The term has the same general meaning as "Holdup Alarm or Duress Alarm."

II. "Takeover" means the transaction or process by which an Alarm User takes over control of an existing Alarm System that was previously controlled by another Alarm User.

JJ. "Zones" mean a division of devices into which an Alarm System is divided to indicate the general location from which an Alarm System signal is transmitted.

5.56.030 Administration; Funding; Increases in Fees and Fines; Annual Evaluation

A. Responsibility for administration of this Chapter is vested with the Police Department.

B. The Police Department shall designate an Alarm Administrator to carry out the duties and functions described in this section.

C. Monies generated by fees and fines assessed pursuant to this section shall be deposited into the City's General Fund.

D. The amount of the fees and fines set forth in this section shall be specified in the City Fee Schedule, which may only be revised by a duly-adopted resolution of the City Council. For purposes of this subsection, "fees" include any type or class of fee and includes late charges.

E. The Alarm Administrator shall conduct an annual evaluation and analysis of the effectiveness of this Chapter and identify and implement system improvements as warranted.

5.56.040 Alarm Registrations Required; Terms; Fees and Fee Collection

A. An Alarm User shall not operate, or cause to be operated, any Alarm System without a valid Alarm Registration. A separate Alarm Registration is required for each Alarm Site having a distinct address or business name. A registration fee including a completed Alarm Registration application shall be

received and approved by the Alarm Administrator prior to any Alarm System activation. A thirty (30) day grace period shall be granted from the date of all new alarm installations or takeovers between two alarm users, to accommodate the registration application process. There shall be reduced residential registration fees for senior citizens, low-income and disabled persons. The city council shall establish such classes of persons by resolution.

B. Owners of Local Alarm Systems are required to adhere to all sections of this Chapter and are subject to all fees, fines, suspensions, penalties or other requirements that are applicable.

C. The fee for a new initial Alarm Registration and the Alarm Registration renewal fee shall be collected by the Alarm Administrator.

D. Existing Alarm Systems

1. Any Alarm System that has been installed before the effective date of this Ordinance shall be registered and a registration fee collected by the Alarm Administrator.

a. The Alarm Agreement Holding Company shall provide within forty (40) days of the effective date of this Ordinance, an Alarm User List of existing Alarm Users in the City, in a format approved by the Alarm Administrator, including name, address, billing address and telephone number to the Alarm Administrator.

b. The Alarm Agreement Holding Company may apply to the Alarm Administrator for an extension of the time limit in subsection (a) based on extenuating circumstances.

2. The Alarm Agreement Holding Company may, through a mutual written agreement, have another Alarm Company provide the Alarm User's list.

E. New Alarm Systems

1. Any Alarm Installation Company that installs an Alarm System on premises located within the City of Huntington Beach shall notify the Alarm Administrator within twenty (20) days that an Alarm System has been installed and send the Alarm Administrator the required information.

2. In the case of self-installed alarm systems that are to be monitored by a Monitoring Company, the Monitoring Company shall act as

the Alarm Installation Company regarding the duties to notify the Alarm Administrator.

3. Failure of an Alarm Installation Company to notify the Alarm Administrator of a new Alarm System installation within twenty (20) days of installation shall result in a fine as established by resolution of the city council to be imposed on the Alarm Installation Company.

4. The initial Alarm Registration fee shall be collected by the Alarm Administrator. Failure of the Alarm User to submit an application and registration fee within the thirty (30) days after notice shall result in the Alarm System being classified as non-registered and late charges being assessed.

F. Alarm Registration and Renewal Fees

1. An Alarm Registration shall expire one year from the date of issuance, and must be renewed annually by the Alarm User. The Alarm Administrator shall notify the Alarm User of the need to renew their registration thirty (30) days prior to the expiration of the registration. It is the responsibility of the Alarm User to submit the updated information and renewal fees prior to the registration expiration date. Failure to renew shall be classified as use of a non-registered Alarm System and subject the Alarm Site to a suspension and late charge.

2. Registration fees shall be collected annually based on a one-year registration period. The amount of the registration and renewal fees required are established by resolution of the city council.

G. Late charge. Alarm Users who fail to make payment for an Alarm Registration prior to the registration's expiration date will be assessed a late charge as established by resolution of the city council.

H. Refunds. No refund of a registration fee or registration renewal fee will be made.

I. Upon receipt of a completed Alarm Registration application form and the Alarm Registration fee, the Alarm Administrator shall issue a Registration Number or Alarm Registration renewal to the applicant unless:

1. The applicant has failed to pay any fee or fine assessed under this chapter; or

2. An Alarm Registration for the Alarm Site has been suspended, and the condition causing the suspension has not been corrected; or

3. The Alarm Installation Company and/or the Monitoring Company listed on the registration application are not in possession of a current valid State of California Department of Consumer Affairs Alarm Company Operators License.

4. Any false statement of a material fact made by an applicant for the purpose of obtaining an Alarm Registration shall be sufficient cause for refusal to issue an Alarm Registration.

J. Exceptions

1. Government entities, including but not necessarily limited to the City, County, State, Federal and School Districts, must obtain Alarm Registrations for all Alarm Systems on property under their control within the boundaries of Huntington Beach, but are exempt from payment of Alarm Registration and renewal fees.

2. All registration-fee-exempted alarm sites are required to obtain and maintain a valid Alarm Registration for a Police response and are subjected to all other fees, fines and suspension enforcements, except when this action is prohibited by statute or through a court ruling.

5.56.050 Registration Application; Contents.

An application for an Alarm Registration must be in a format provided by the Police Department. The information required on such forms shall be determined by the Alarm Administrator. Registration applicants acknowledge that the Police response may be influenced by factors including, but not limited to, the availability of officers, priority of calls, traffic conditions, weather conditions, emergency conditions, prior alarm history, administrative actions and staffing levels.

5.56.060 Transfer of Registration Prohibited

A. An Alarm Registration cannot be transferred to another Person or Alarm Site. An Alarm User shall inform the Alarm Administrator and their Alarm Company of any change to the information listed on the Alarm Registration application within ten (10) business days after such change.

B. Exceptions may be made in the discretion of the Alarm Administrator when the transfer proposed is among members of the family of the original registration holder or successors in interest to the property for which the Alarm Registration has been issued.

5.56.070 Duties of Alarm Users

A. An Alarm User shall:

1. Maintain the Alarm Site and the Alarm System in a manner that will minimize or eliminate False Alarms;

2. Make every reasonable effort to arrive at the Alarm System's location within 30 minutes after being requested by the Monitoring Company or Police Department in order to:

a. Deactivate an Alarm System;

b. Provide access to the Alarm Site; and/or

c. Provide alternative security for the Alarm Site.

3. Provide his, her, or its Monitoring Company with the updated names and telephone numbers of at least two individuals who are able and have agreed to:

a. Receive notification of an Alarm System activation at any time;

b. Respond to the Alarm Site at any time; and

c. Provide access to the Alarm Site and deactivate the Alarm System, if necessary.

4. Not activate an Alarm System for any reason other than an occurrence of an event that the Alarm System was intended to report.

5. Notify his, her, or its Monitoring Company of any suspension of police response (as provided for under this Chapter) and request that the Monitoring Company not make a Burglar Alarm Dispatch Request.

B. No Person shall operate or cause to be operated any Automatic Voice Dialer which, when activated, uses a telephone device or attachment to automatically dial a telephone line leading into the Police Department or the City and then transmit any pre-recorded message or signal.

C. An Alarm User shall keep a set of written operating instructions for each Alarm System at each Alarm Site.

5.56.080 Audible Alarms; Restrictions, Abatement of Malfunctioning Alarm

A. No Alarm System shall emit a sound resembling an emergency vehicle siren or civil defense warning. The chief of police shall make the final determination regarding any question of an audible alarm within this section.

B. After the effective date of this ordinance no one shall install, modify or repair an Alarm System in the City of Huntington Beach that has a siren, bell or other signal that is audible from any property adjacent to the Alarm Site that sounds for longer than fifteen (15) consecutive minutes after the alarm is activated, or that repeats the fifteen (15) minute audible cycle more than two consecutive times during a single armed period.

C. In the event that an audible alarm is activated and fails to reset itself or continues to activate for more than (60) sixty minutes and the responsible person listed on the Alarm Registration or other responsible person cannot or will not respond and silence the alarm, and the continued activation of the alarm is creating a disturbance, the Police Department may cause the alarm to be silenced in a manner determined appropriate for the circumstances. The Alarm User shall be held responsible for the actual costs involved to abate the malfunctioning alarm up to a maximum of three hundred dollars (\$300). The City, its employees or agents shall not be responsible or liable for damage resulting from such disconnection.

5.56.090 Registration and Duties of Alarm Installation Companies and Monitoring Companies

A. Registration.

1. No alarm company operator or alarm agent, as defined by the Business and Professions Code, shall install, maintain, or repair any Alarm System within the City unless the Alarm Company operator or alarm agent has, prior to performing such work, obtained a City Business License.

2. Each Alarm Installation Company and Alarm Monitoring Company must designate one individual as the Alarm Response Manager (ARM) for the company. The individual designated as the ARM must be knowledgeable of the provisions of this Chapter, as well as have the knowledge and authority to deal with False Alarm issues and respond to requests from the Alarm Administrator. The name, contact number, and email address of the ARM shall be provided to the Alarm Administrator. Failure to comply within thirty (30) days after being notified in writing from the Alarm Administrator may result in the suspension of Police

Department response to Alarm Dispatch Requests from the non-complying Alarm Installation Company or Monitoring Company.

3. Each Alarm Installation Company shall provide the name, address and phone number of any Monitoring Company it is using to monitor its Alarm Sites within the City, and Monitoring Companies shall do the same for Alarm Installation Companies that use their monitoring services within the City.

B. Alarm Installation Companies shall:

1. Upon the installation or activation of an Alarm System, the Alarm Installation Company shall distribute to the Alarm User information summarizing:

a. The applicable law relating to False Alarms, including the Registration Fee and the potential for fines and suspension of an Alarm Registration;

b. How to prevent False Alarms; and

c. How to operate the Alarm System.

2. After the effective date of this Ordinance, Alarm Installation Companies shall not program Alarm Systems so that they are capable of sending One Plus Duress Alarms. Monitoring Companies may continue to report One Plus Duress Alarms received from Alarm Systems programmed with One Plus Duress Alarms installed prior to the effective date of this Ordinance.

3. After the effective date of this Ordinance, Alarm Installation Companies shall not install, modify or repair "single action" devices for the activation of Hold-up, Robbery or Panic Alarms. New devices shall require two actions or an activation time delay to provide more positive assurance that the user intends to activate the device.

4. All audible Alarm Systems shall include a device which will limit the duration of the audible alarm to a period of not more than fifteen (15) minutes per activation.

5. An Alarm Installation Company shall not use an Automatic Voice Dialer for any Alarm System which, when activated, uses a telephone device or attachment to automatically dial a telephone line leading into the Police Department or the City and then transmit any pre-recorded message or signal.

6. Ensure that Alarm Users of Alarm Systems equipped with a Duress, Robbery, Holdup or Panic Alarm has been provided adequate training as to the proper use of the Alarm System's operation and function.

7. All Alarm Systems shall be supplied with an uninterrupted power supply in such a manner that the failure or interruption of the normal electric utility service for a period of up to four (4) hours will not activate the Alarm System.

C. A Monitoring Company shall:

1. Report alarm signals by using telephone numbers or procedures designated by the Alarm Administrator or other approved communication processes.

2. Employ Enhanced Call Confirmation procedures on all Burglar Alarm Dispatch Requests. The Huntington Beach Police Department may refuse to accept an Alarm Dispatch Request from a Monitoring Company that has failed to comply with the procedures required by Enhanced Call Confirmation. This subsection becomes effective Ninety (90) days after the effective date of this Ordinance.

3. Communicate Alarm Dispatch Requests to the Police Department in a manner and form determined by the Alarm Administrator.

4. Communicate Cancellations to the Police Department in a manner and form determined by the Alarm Administrator.

5. Communicate all available Zone activations information (north, south, front, back, door, window etc.) about the location of an alarm signal(s) as part of an Alarm Dispatch Request.

6. Communicate the type of alarm activation (silent or audible, interior or perimeter), if available, on any Alarm Dispatch Request.

7. Notify Communications (Dispatch) of any Alarm Site that it knows, or reasonably should know has guard dog(s), pets or is fitted with a Protective-Reactive Alarm System. During any alarm at such a site, a Responsible Party must be contacted and confirm that he or she will respond to the Alarm Site to disarm the device or take control of the guard dog(s).

8. After an Alarm Dispatch Request, promptly advise the Police Department if the Monitoring Company knows that the Alarm User or a Responsible Party is on the way to the Alarm Site.

9. Each Monitoring Company must maintain, for a period of at least one year after the date of an Alarm Dispatch Request, all records relating to the Alarm Dispatch Request. Records must include the name, address and telephone number of the Alarm User, each Alarm System zone activated, the time of Alarm Dispatch Request and evidence of all attempts to verify. The Alarm Administrator may request copies of such records for any individual Alarm User. If the request is made within 60 days after an Alarm Dispatch Request, the Monitoring Company shall furnish requested records within three (3) business days after receiving the request. If the records are requested between sixty (60) days and (one) 1 year after an Alarm Dispatch Request, the Monitoring Company shall furnish the requested records within thirty (30) days after receiving the request.

10. Each Monitoring Company shall, upon request, immediately provide the Police Department with the names and phone numbers of the Alarm User's emergency contacts at the time of each Alarm Dispatch Request.

D. Conversion of Alarm Users. An Alarm Installation Company or Monitoring Company that converts the servicing of any Alarm System account from another company shall notify the Alarm Administrator of such conversion and shall make a reasonable effort to provide to the Alarm Administrator, within 60 days from the date of conversion, an Alarm User List of the converted accounts, in a format acceptable to the Alarm Administrator.

5.56.100 Duties and authority of the Alarm Administrator

A. The Alarm Administrator shall:

1. Designate the manner and form of Alarm Dispatch Requests and the telephone numbers and/or communication process that are to be used for such requests; and

2. Establish a procedure to accept Cancellation of Alarm Dispatch Requests.

B. The Alarm Administrator shall establish a procedure to acquire and record information on Alarm Dispatch Requests.

C. The Alarm Administrator shall establish and implement a procedure to notify the Alarm User of a False Alarm. The notice shall include the following:

1. The date and time of an officer's response to the False Alarm; and

2. Any False Alarm fine incurred.

D. The Alarm Administrator may require that a conference be held with an Alarm User and the Alarm Installation Company or Monitoring Company responsible for repairing or monitoring of the Alarm System to review the circumstances of each False Alarm. The conference may be held in Person or through a conference telephone call, at the Alarm Administrator's discretion. Failure to participate may result in suspension of the Alarm Registration, as indicated by the facts of the case.

E. The Alarm Administrator may establish an Alarm User Awareness Class. The Alarm Administrator may request the assistance of associations, alarm companies and law enforcement agencies in developing and implementing the class. The class shall inform Alarm Users of the Alarm Ordinance; problems created by False Alarms and teach Alarm Users how to avoid creating False Alarms.

F. If a false Robbery, Holdup or Panic Alarm has occurred and the alarm was triggered using a single action, non-recessed device, the Alarm Administrator may consider a waiver or partial waiver of the False Alarm fine, if action is taken by the Alarm User to remove or replace the single action, non-recessed device.

G. The Alarm Administrator shall make a copy of this Ordinance and/or an ordinance summary sheet available to each Alarm User.

H. The Alarm Administrator may use electronic means to communicate with Alarm Users, Alarm Installation Companies and Monitoring Companies when applicable or when requested by the recipient and at the Alarm Administrators discretion.

5.56.110 False Alarm Fines; Fees; Late Charges

A. The Alarm Administrator may assess the Alarm User a fine for a False Alarm occurring at that Alarm User's Alarm Site. The amount of said fines for the listed categories shall be established by city council and may be subsequently amended by resolution of the city council.

1. Burglar False Alarm Fines

2. Robbery False Alarm Fines

3. Panic False Alarm Fines

B. If a False Alarm fine is not paid within thirty (30) days after the invoice is mailed, a late charge as established by resolution of the city council shall be imposed.

C. Fines for False Alarms from Non-Registered Alarm Systems. For person(s) operating a Non-Registered Alarm System incurring a False Alarm, fines shall be imposed as established by resolution of the city council.

D. Any Monitoring Company after five (5) business days of receiving notice from the Alarm Administrator that an Alarm User's registration status is that of Non-registered shall not make a Burglar Alarm Dispatch Request from that Alarm User.

E. If Cancellation of a Police response occurs prior to the officer's arrival at the Alarm Site, the response is not considered a False Alarm and no False Alarm fine will be assessed.

F. The Alarm Installation Company shall be assessed a fine in an amount established by resolution of the city council if the officer responding to a False Alarm determines that an on-site employee of the Alarm Installation Company directly caused the False Alarm. Such False Alarms are not included in the total number of False Alarms for the Alarm User, nor is the Alarm User to be held liable for any False Alarm fine resulting from such alarm activation.

G. A fine in an amount established by resolution of the city council shall be imposed against any Monitoring Company that fails to verify Alarm System signals as required in subsection 5.56.090(C)(2) of this Chapter.

H. Notice of the right of appeal under this ordinance will be included with notice of any fine.

I. All registration fees, renewal registration fees or fines assessed under this section are due within thirty (30) days of written notice unless otherwise noted. A late charge in an amount established by resolution of the city council shall be imposed for each individual fee or fine due that is not paid within thirty (30) days.

J. The Alarm Administrator may waive the False Alarm fine for the first chargeable False Alarm during the Alarm User's one-year registration period, pending the successful completion of the Online Alarm User Awareness Class available through the Alarm Administrator. In order to have the fine waived, the Alarm User shall have successfully completed the class within thirty (30) days of the fine notice. Alarm Users without online access may request the online school and test be mailed to them. Reasonable additional time to complete the Alarm User Awareness Class shall be allowed for mail delivery.

5.56.120 Notice to Alarm Users of False Alarms and Suspension of a Police Response

A. The Alarm Administrator shall notify the Alarm User in writing or by other electronic means after each False Alarm. The notice shall include the amount of the fine for the False Alarm, the fact that Police response to further alarms may be suspended after the fourth False Alarm during the Alarm User's one-year Alarm Registration period, (excluding Duress, Robbery, Holdup and Panic Alarms), and that the Alarm User has the right to appeal.

B. The Alarm Administrator shall notify the Alarm User in writing thirty (30) days beforehand that a Police Department response to further alarms is to be suspended. The right of appeal under this Ordinance shall be included with the notice. The notice of suspension shall also include the amount of any fees and/or fines due and a description of the reinstatement process.

5.56.130 Alarm Registration Suspension, Fees, Fines, Violation to Make Alarm Dispatch

Request for Suspended Alarm Site

A. The Alarm Administrator shall notify the Police Department of each Alarm User whose Alarm Registration qualifies for suspension under this section. The Alarm Administrator may suspend an Alarm Registration if it is determined that:

1. There is a false statement of a material fact in the registration application; or

2. The Alarm User has had four or more false Burglar Alarms within the one-year registration period, except that the Alarm Administrator may waive a suspension of a registration upon receipt of documented work orders showing reasonable attempts to repair the Alarm System prior to the notice of suspension;

3. The Alarm User fails or refuses to pay an Alarm Registration or Alarm Registration Renewal fee, False Alarm fine, late charge, or any other fee, fine, or charge assessed under this section.

B. It is a violation of this section for a Person to operate a Burglar Alarm System during the period in which the Alarm Registration is suspended. It is a violation of this Chapter for a Monitoring Company to make an Alarm Dispatch Request to a Burglar Alarm Site after the Monitoring Company's Alarm Response Manager (ARM) has been notified by electronic mail by the Alarm Administrator that the registration for that Alarm Site has been suspended. A grace period of five (5) business days after the ARM's notification shall be granted the Monitoring Company to comply. The Alarm Monitoring Company

shall be assessed a fine in an amount established by resolution of the city council for requesting a Burglar Alarm Dispatch Request on a suspended Alarm Site.

C. False Alarm Fines under Suspension status. In addition to the fines set forth in subsection 5.56.110(A), a supplemental fine is hereby imposed upon any Person operating a suspended Burglar Alarm System. The amount of said fines shall be established by resolution of the city council.

D. It shall be the responsibility of the Alarm User to notify their respective Alarm Monitoring Company of their suspension status. An Alarm User shall be held financially accountable for all false alarm fines incurred.

E. Unless there is a separate indication that there is a crime in progress, the Police Department may or may not dispatch an officer to an Alarm Site for which an Alarm Registration is suspended.

5.56.140 Appeals of Determinations Regarding Alarm Registrations, Fees and Fines

A. If the Alarm Administrator assesses a fee or fine, suspends an Alarm Registration or denies the issuance, renewal or reinstatement of an Alarm Registration, the Alarm Administrator shall send notice of the action and a statement of the right to appeal to the affected applicant, Alarm User, Alarm Installation Company or Alarm Monitoring Company.

B. The applicant, Alarm User, Alarm Installation Company or Alarm Monitoring Company may appeal any action described in subsection (A) above to the Police Chief (or his or her designee) by setting forth in writing the reasons for the appeal and delivering the appeal to the Police Chief (or designee) within twenty (20) days after receipt of notice of the action. Failure to deliver the appeal within that time period is a waiver of the right to appeal.

C. The procedure for an appeal to the Police Chief (or designee) is as follows:

1. The applicant, Alarm User, Alarm Installation Company or Monitoring Company may file a written request for appeal by paying an appeal fee and setting forth the reasons for the appeal. The appeal must be entitled "Appeal from Alarm Administrator's Action." The appeal fee shall be in an amount established by resolution of the city council and will be returned to the appealing party if the appeal is successful.

2. The Police Chief (or designee) shall conduct a hearing on the appeal within thirty (30) days after the Police Department's receipt of the request for appeal and appeal fee and shall consider the evidence

submitted by the appealing party and the Alarm Administrator. The Police Chief (or designee) must base the decision on the preponderance of evidence presented at the hearing and must render a decision within fifteen (15) days after the date of the hearing. The decision shall affirm or reverse the decision or action taken by the Alarm Administrator.

3. Filing of an appeal stays any action by the Alarm Administrator to suspend an Alarm Registration or require the payment of a fee or fine until the appeal process has been exhausted. This provision applies only to the action of the Alarm Administrator that is the subject of the appeal. This provision does not operate as a bar to enforcement action on violations of this section that occur thereafter.

D. The Alarm Administrator or the Police Chief, or their respective designees, may adjust the count of False Alarms or assessed fees based on:

1. Evidence that a False Alarm was caused by action of a communications services provider (i.e., telephone, cellular, cable company);

2. Evidence that a False Alarm was caused by a power outage of more than four (4) hours or severe weather such as a tornado, earthquake, or excessive winds (35 m.p.h. or above as measured by the Huntington Beach (LIST LOCATION such as their International Airport weather monitoring station); or

3. Evidence that an Alarm Dispatch Request was not a False Alarm;

4. The occurrence of multiple alarms within a 24-hour period, which may be considered as one False Alarm if the Alarm User has taken corrective action, unless the False Alarms are directly caused by the Alarm User.

E. The Alarm Administrator may waive all or part of a False Alarm fine due to extenuating circumstances or to encourage corrective action with supervisor approval.

5.56.150 Reinstatement of Suspended Alarm Registrations

A. On the suspension of an Alarm Registration, a Person whose Alarm Registration has been suspended may obtain reinstatement of the registration by the Alarm Administrator if the Person:

1. Pays a reinstatement fee as established by resolution of the city council;

2. Pays, or otherwise resolves, all outstanding fees, fines, and other charges;

3. Submits a written notice from an Alarm Installation Company stating that the Alarm System has been inspected and repaired (if necessary) by the Alarm Installation Company;

4. The Alarm User successfully completes an Alarm User Awareness Class and test.

B. The Police Department shall reinstate its response to an Alarm Site as soon as is practicable after receiving notice of reinstatement from the Alarm Administrator. The Alarm User and Monitoring Company shall take notice that the Alarm Site has been officially reinstated only after receiving notice from the Alarm Administrator of that fact. It shall be the responsibility of the Alarm User to verify that his, her, or its registration status and future police response has been properly restored.

5.56.160 Suspension of Police Response to Dispatch Requests from Certain Alarm Installation Companies and Monitoring Companies

A. The Police Chief or Command Staff designee may suspend Police response to an Alarm Dispatch Request from an Alarm Installation Company or Monitoring Company if it is determined that:

1. There is a violation of this chapter by the Alarm Installation Company or Monitoring Company and the condition causing the violation has not been corrected and/or;

2. The Alarm Installation Company or Monitoring Company has failed to pay any fee, fine, or other charge assessed under this section, more than sixty (60) days after the fee, fine, or other charge is due.

B. The Police Department may not respond to any Alarm Dispatch Request where the Alarm Installation Company or Monitoring Company who installed or monitors that alarm has failed to comply with California licensing requirements or failed to maintain a valid copy of the State of California Department of Consumer Affairs Alarm Company Operators License.

C. A suspension of Police response made pursuant to this subsection is subject to the appeal process provided for within this Chapter. In addition, the Alarm Administrator has the ability to accept a workable solution from the affected party prior to an appeal. The affected party has sixty (60) days after the

written notice of suspension before Police response is suspended to its alarm customers.

D. The Alarm Administrator shall notify all known Alarm Users subscribing to an Alarm Installation Company or an Alarm Monitoring Company that the Police Department has suspended response to the company's Alarm Dispatch Requests.

E. The City shall assess the Alarm Installation Company or Monitoring Company a reinstatement fee in an amount established by resolution of the city council. In addition, if the Alarm Administrator has incurred costs in notifying Alarm Users by mail of the suspension of their Alarm Installation Company or Monitoring Company, reimbursement to the City of those costs shall be a condition of reinstatement.

5.56.170 Police Department Response

A. Subject to the suspension provisions in section 5.56.130 above and the discretion discussed in section 5.56.190 below, the Police Department at its discretion will respond to all "in progress" Robbery, Panic or Burglar Alarms as promptly as possible, taking into account pending calls for service and any policy establishing priority of dispatched calls following notification of the receipt of the alarm from the Monitoring Company. Police supervisors may, in their discretion, cancel a Police response to any or all alarms based on weather or other factors affecting Police service needs.

B. The Police Chief or his or her designee may re-prioritize assignment of Burglar Alarms and response time at any time during a 24-hour period as may be necessary due to the service needs of the community.

5.56.180 Confidentiality of Alarm Information

All information contained in documents gathered through Alarm Registrations, the submission of customer lists, the alarm appeal process and records relating to Alarm Dispatch Requests must be held in confidence by all employees of the Alarm Administrator, City of Huntington Beach and any third-party alarm administrator. Such information is proprietary and is hereby declared confidential and not a public record. Absent special circumstances, such information must not be released to the public or any Person other than a law enforcement agency, third party administrator or the applicable Alarm User, Alarm Installation Company or Alarm Monitoring Company except pursuant to court order. Per California Government Code 6254(f).

5.56.190 Scope of Police duty; Immunities Preserved

The issuance of Alarm Registrations does not create a contract between the Police Department and/or the City of Huntington Beach and any Alarm User, Alarm Installation Company or Monitoring Company, nor does it create a duty or obligation, either expressed or implied, on the Police Department to respond to any alarm. Any and all liability and consequential damage resulting from the failure of the Police Department to respond to an Alarm Dispatch Request is hereby disclaimed and full governmental immunity as provided by law is retained. By applying for an Alarm Registration, the Alarm User acknowledges that the Police Department response is influenced by the availability of officers, priority of calls, traffic conditions, weather conditions, emergency conditions, staffing levels, prior response history and administrative actions."