

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MONROEVILLE AMENDING ORDINANCE 1325; ESTABLISHING THE RECOGNIZED REMOTE STATION PROTECTIVE SIGNALING SYSTEM OF THE MUNICIPALITY AND THE PUBLIC FIRE SERVICE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM OF THE MUNICIPALITY, AND REGULATING ALARM SYSTEM CONNECTION THERETO; REGULATING THE SALES, INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE, OWNERSHIP, POSSESSION, MONITORING AND USE OF OPERATIVE ALARM SYSTEM; AND DELETING ORDINANCES 1540, & 1585

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED, by the Municipality of Monroeville, in Council assembled as follows:

WHEREAS, the Municipal Council of the Municipality of Monroeville deems it necessary for the purpose of assuring adequate public safety to protect its citizens and general public and structures with the confines of the Municipality from the damages of fire, robbery and burglary; and

WHEREAS, there has been an increase in recent years in the use of alarm systems which operate by way of the Municipal remote, or by way of a central station operating company; and

WHEREAS, improper installation, defective equipment, lack of maintenance or other reason cause any alarm systems to malfunction, and

WHEREAS, each time the Monroeville Fire Department responds to a fire alarm activated because of a fire alarm malfunction the estimated cost to the Municipality of Monroeville is a minimum of \$500.00; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the financial cost, each malfunction requires that Monroeville Fire Department personnel respond, thus decreasing the number of Monroeville Fire Department personnel available to respond to an actual fire; and

WHEREAS, the Monroeville Fire Department's responding to fire alarm malfunctions jeopardizes the safety of firefighters as well as the general public, now therefore be it ordained and enacted to be in the public interest as follows:

SECTION 1: The following definitions apply for purposes of this ordinance:

A. "Alarm system" means any device designed for the detection of an unauthorized entry on the premises, unlawful act, fire or any emergency that alerts a municipal organization of its own commission or occurrence and when activated gives a signal, either visual, audible, or both; or transmits or causes to be transmitted a signal.

B. "Local system" means a system that gives a signal, either visual, audible, or both, on the interior or exterior portion of the property/business, but does not leave that structure/business by wire or radio wave to a remote receiving location.

C. "Medical alarm" means any device which, when activated gives a signal, either visual, audible, or both; or transmits or causes to be transmitted, a signal to signify the need for emergency medical services personnel.

D. "Nuisance alarm" means any alarm signal that alerts a municipal organization, which is not the result of an actual or threatened emergency requiring their immediate response. Nuisance alarms include negligently or accidentally activated signals; signals which are the result of faulty, malfunctioning, or improperly installed or maintained equipment; signals which are purposely activated to summon emergency services in non-emergency situations; and alarm signals for which the actual cause is not determined. Alarms occurring within the first three (3) months of initial installation of a system due to system malfunction shall not be considered "Nuisance alarms" provided the Municipal Fire Official is presented with sufficient evidence to verify that the causes of these alarms are being investigated, and corrective action is being taken.

E. "Tape dialer" means an electronic device which is interconnected to a telephone line and is programmed to select a pre-determined telephone number and transmit a pre-recorded voice message of an alarm condition.

F. "Silent alarm" means any alarm system which gives a signal by wire or radio wave, but does not trigger a local bell, siren, or other sounding device.

G. "Visual alarm" means any alarm system which gives a lighted signal upon activation.

H. "Audible alarm" means any alarm system which triggers a local bell, siren, or other sounding device upon activation.

I. "Single unit signaling equipment" means any self contained sensing and signaling device which does not send a signal by wire or radio waves.

J. "Digital communicator" means an electronic device which is interconnected to a telephone line and is programmed to select a pre-determined telephone number and transmit a coded signal.

K. "Central station system" means a system or group of systems, the operations of which are signaled to, recorded in, maintained and supervised from an approved central station, in which there are competent and experienced observers and operators in attendance at all times whose duty it shall be, upon receipt of a signal, to take such action as shall be required under the rules

established for their guidance. Such systems shall be controlled and operated by a person, firm, or corporation whose principle business is the furnishing and maintaining of supervised protective signaling service and who has no interest in the protected properties.

L. "Auxiliary alarm system" means a connection to the Municipal alarm system to transmit an alarm to the communication center of the Municipality.

M. "Remote station protective signaling system" means a system of electrically supervised circuits employing a direct circuit connection between signaling devices at the protected premises and signal receiving equipment in a remote station, such as a municipal communication center or fire alarm headquarters, or other location acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

N. "Proprietary protective signaling system" means a protective signaling system under constant supervision by competent and experienced personnel in a central supervising station at the property protected. The system includes equipment and other facilities required to permit the operators to test and operate the system and, upon receipt of a signal, to take such action as shall be required under the rules established for their guidance by the authority having jurisdiction. The system shall be maintained and tested by owner personnel or an organization satisfactory to the authority having jurisdiction. Noncontiguous properties under a single ownership may be considered as the "property" and be connected to a single central supervising station.

O. "Public fire service communications system" means a municipal fire alarm system, telephone facilities and fire department radio facilities, all of which fulfill two principal functions: that of receiving fire alarms or other emergency call from the public, and that of retransmitting these alarms and emergency calls to fire companies and other interested agencies.

P. "Communication Center" means that building or portion of a building used to house the central operating part of the alarm system; usually the place where the necessary testing, switching, receiving, retransmitting and power supply devices are located, and is the public safety answering point of the Municipality.

Q. "Household warning system" means a system of devices that produce an audible alarm signal in the household for the purpose of notifying the occupants of the presence of an emergency so they may evacuate the premises.

R. "Hardwire" means an electrically supervised direct dedicated circuit between the protected premises and the alarm monitoring point.

S. "Public safety answering point" means a communication center that serves the consolidated incoming and outgoing communication needs of the emergency medical service, the fire service, the police service, and other emergency services of the Municipality.

SECTION 2: The Municipality of Monroeville Public Safety Communications Center is hereby established as the recognized remote station protective signaling system of the Municipality, public fire service communication system of the Municipality, and the public safety answering point of the Municipality.

SECTION 3: Single unit signaling equipment is exempt from the provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 4: Any person, firm, partnership, corporation or other entity engaged in selling, installing, and/or maintaining any alarm system in the Municipality of Monroeville or engaged in monitoring any non-BOCA fire alarm system of the Municipality shall obtain an annual permit from the Municipality of Monroeville to engage in such activity. Said permit shall contain the identity, the principal place (address) of business, and telephone number of the permittee; the identities of all employees doing work in the Municipality; and the name of the permittee's bonding company, if any. The annual fee for said permit shall be \$25.00, except that the fee may be waived in the case of those entities installing and/or maintaining their own proprietary alarm system which is not required by the provisions of the 1987 BOCA Building and Fire Prevention Code. All subject systems shall be reported to the Municipality.

SECTION 5: Any person, firm, partnership, corporation or other entity having a UL listed central station and desiring to monitor any BOCA required fire alarm system in the Municipality of Monroeville shall apply for an annual permit from the Municipality of Monroeville to become a recognized central station of the jurisdiction. If issued, said permit shall contain the identity, the principal place (address) of business, and telephone number of the permittee, the identities of all employees doing work arising in the Municipality; and the name of the permittee's bonding company, if any. The annual fee for said permit shall be \$25.00. A recognized central station of the jurisdiction shall provide at no cost to the Municipality two separate methods of retransmitting signals to the public safety communication center of the Municipality. All subject systems shall be reported to the Municipality. One of the retransmission means shall be supervised so that interruption of retransmission circuit communication integrity will result in a trouble signal at the central station as well as Monroeville Public Safety Communications Center. The retransmission means shall meet the requirements of Sections 1-7.2.2, 1-7.2.3, and 1-7.2.4 of NFPA 71 (1987).

- A. The retransmission means may be supervised but are not limited to:
1. An electrically supervised circuit (channel) provided with suitable code sending and automatic recording equipment.
 2. A supervised circuit (channel) provided with suitable voice transmitting, receiving, and automatic recording equipment. The circuit may be a telephone circuit that cannot be used for any other purpose, is provided with a two-way "ring down" feature for supervision between the Municipal Public Safety Communications Center and the central station with terminal equipment located on the premises at each end, and 24 hour standby power provided.
 3. Radio facilities using transmissions over supervised channel with supervised transmitting and receiving equipment. Circuit continuity assured at intervals not exceeding eight (8) hours by any means is satisfactory.
 4. Other means may be approved when equivalency can be shown to the Fire Official, and such means is approved by the Fire Official.
- B. All recognized central stations of the jurisdiction shall meet the requirements of this section regardless of the number of alarm systems within the Municipality being monitored by any recognized central station.
- C. No central station shall be eligible for recognition by the Municipality unless it is UL listed.

SECTION 6: Any person, firm, partnership, corporation or other entity installing, owning, possessing, and/or using an operative alarm system in the Municipality of Monroeville shall register said system with the Municipality of Monroeville, and receive a permit for said system. The permit shall contain the name, principal address, and telephone number of the permittee; address where the alarm is installed; type of alarm system; identity and address of signaling equipment manufacturer; and names, addresses, and telephone numbers of persons to contact in an emergency. The registration permit fee shall be \$25.00, and the permit shall be effective for the duration of the possession, and/or use of the system by the original permittee.

SECTION 7: Specific requirements pertaining to the connection of various types of alarm systems to the Municipal Public Safety Communications Center shall be as follows:

- A. All fire signaling protective annunciating devices, units, or systems as required by 1987 BOCA Basic Building and Fire Prevention Codes shall be connected in the manner prescribed by NFPA Standard 72C of 1987, or by section 5 of this ordinance to the recognized remote station protective signaling system of the Municipality.

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- B. All fire signaling protective annunciating devices, units, or systems not required by 1987 BOCA Basic Building and Fire Prevention Codes may connect to the Public Fire Service Communication System of the Municipality by means of a digital communicator, or by means of an approved supervised hardwire connection.
- C. All hold-up alarms shall connect to the Public Safety Communication Center of the Municipality. Hold-up alarms may be connected by digital communicator, or by means of an approved supervised hardwire connection.
- D. Any burglary alarm may connect to the Public Safety Communication Center of the Municipality by means of a digital communicator, or by means of an approved supervised hardwire connection.
- E. Any emergency medical alarm may connect to the Public Safety Communication Center of the Municipality by means of a digital communicator, or by means of an approved hardwire connection.
- F. In the event one given alarm system reports more than one type of alarm condition by means of a single connection, then only one permit shall be required for that connection.
- G. All alarm systems connected directly to the Municipal Remote Public Communications System by either digital communicator, or by direct hardwire connection shall be charged an annual permit fee of \$240.00. EXEMPTION: Structures, or areas containing places of regular religious worship.

SECTION 8: Alarm equipment shall meet standards established by Underwriters Laboratory, Factory Mutual Insurance Association, Factory Insurance Association, or National Fire Protection Association. Any commercial fire alarm installer shall certify system installation in writing to the Fire Official before placing said system into service. Such written certification shall be in the form of Figure 1-4.3 Central Station Signaling Systems Certificate of NFPA 71 (1987 Edition), or Figure 2-2.4 Fire Alarm System Certification and Description Certificate of NFPA 72C (1987 Edition). All fire alarm systems shall be under the supervision of a responsible, qualified person or organization satisfactory to the Fire Official, who shall, under contractual agreement, make all inspections, tests, and repairs promptly. Said person or organization shall comply with all applicable laws, licences, ordinances, rules or regulations.

No commercial fire alarm system shall be approved for service by the Fire Official until he is presented with a written copy of a contractual agreement (between system owner and qualified service provider) which states required service maintenance and testing is to be provided, and at what scheduled time periods. Said maintenance agreement shall be for a minimum five (5) year period, and shall be renewable. The service maintenance company (or person), and the fire

alarm system owner shall notify the Fire Official upon the cancellation, expiration, or non-renewal of any fire alarm service maintenance agreement. Failure to notify the Fire Official of any change in status of a fire alarm service maintenance agreement/contract shall result in a fine of \$25.00 per day, to be assessed against the fire alarm system owner, for each day until evidence of a new agreement/contract is presented to the Fire Official. Upon first issuance, or renewal of any service maintenance agreement, a copy shall be forwarded to the Fire Official.

SECTION 9: No fire alarm may be installed contrary to the provisions of the 1987 BOCA Basic Building Code, Fire Prevention Code, and NFPA Standard 1221 of 1984. No alarm may be installed contrary to the provisions of the National Electrical Code NFPA 70 (1987). Further, all local alarms shall be equipped with an automatic reset after one half hour of alarm status, and have another secure means of being reset. No tape dialers may be sold, installed, or used in Monroeville which are programmed to dial the Monroeville Emergency Service telephone number.

SECTION 10: If there are more than two (2) nuisance alarms per ninety (90) day period from a fire alarm system, the Fire Official may assess a fine pursuant to this section, against an alarm system owner for the third and any subsequent nuisance alarms according to the following schedule:

third nuisance alarm - \$75.00
fourth nuisance alarm - \$150.00
fifth nuisance alarm - \$300.00
sixth nuisance alarm, and any
subsequent nuisance alarm - \$600.00

The Fire Official shall be notified in writing of any chargeable nuisance alarm by the Fire Chief within three (3) days of its occurrence. Notice of citation regarding any nuisance alarm shall be given to the system owner in writing. For the sixth and any subsequent alarm from a particular alarm system (in any 90 day period), the Fire Official may assess an additional fine of \$300.00 for each day after the date of such nuisance alarm, until the fire system owner provides satisfactory evidence of suspected cause determination and attempted repairs. Satisfactory evidence shall be in written form from a qualified alarm service company, and shall state the suspected causes and attempted remedies. With respect to any nuisance alarm for which an alarm system owner is cited, such owner shall have the right to "Appeal" the decision of the Fire Official according to the procedures established in Section 123.0, and 124.0 of Ordinance 1582, and Section F-104.0 of Ordinance 1583, and/or the legal procedures as established by law for proceedings at the Pennsylvania Local District Court level. The imposition of any such additional daily fines shall be suspended during the pendency of any appeal proceedings. If a fire alarm system owner appeals under Ordinance 1582, Ordinance 1583, and/or at the PA Local District Court level, then: any fines shall be held in abeyance

until final resolution of the appeal process; if any appellant is successful in such appeal process, no fine shall be assessed; if the appellant is unsuccessful in such appeal process, total fines shall be calculated from the day of the filing of the formal appeal, and all days preceding the formal appeal. There shall be a fine assessed of Fifty (\$50.00) dollars per occurrence for the unauthorized resetting of an alarm system from an alarm to a secure condition. Any nuisance alarm from a non-fire system shall be subject to the penalties established by Ordinance 752 of 1971.

SECTION 11: The Deputy Municipal Manager, Monroeville Fire Official, or Municipal Fire Chief may order a test of a fire alarm system at any time; the Chief of Police or the Deputy Municipal Manager may order a test of any non-fire alarm system at any time during normal business hours, or after a real or nuisance alarm has occurred.

SECTION 12: In addition to other authority, with thirty (30) days written notice, the Monroeville Fire Official or Deputy Municipal Manager may revoke or suspend any fire alarm system permit issued pursuant hereto upon determining:

- A. That the application for the permit contains a statement of material fact which is false; or
- B. That the permittee has failed to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance or other related administrative regulations, ordinances, resolutions, or statutes, or
- C. That an alarm system is negligently installed, used or maintained. More than twelve (12) nuisance alarms with any 365 day period shall be one measure of negligent use, and/or maintenance.

SECTION 13: In addition to other authority, with thirty (30) days written notice, the Chief of Police or the Deputy Municipal Manager may revoke or suspend any non-fire permit issued pursuant hereto upon determining:

- A. That the application for the permit contains a statement of material fact which is false; or
- B. That the permittee has failed to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance or other related administrative regulations, ordinances, resolutions, or statutes; or
- C. That an alarm system is negligently installed, used or maintained. More than twelve (12) nuisance alarms within any 365 day period shall be one measure of negligent use, and/or maintenance.

SECTION 14: Upon thirty (30) days notice, in writing, from the Fire Official or Deputy Municipal Manager to comply with the provision of the Ordinance regarding fire alarm systems, any person, firm, partnership or corporation failing to meet the provisions of the ordinance shall be subject to a fine of \$300.00 per day upon being found in violation of this Ordinance after a hearing before the Local District Magistrate. Upon thirty (30) days notice, in writing, from the Deputy Municipal Manager, or the Chief of Police to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance relating to non-fire alarm systems, any person, firm, partnership or corporation failing to meet the provisions of the ordinance shall be subject to a fine of \$300.00 per day upon being found in violation of this ordinance after a hearing before the Local District Magistrate. This section shall not apply to orders pertaining to nuisance alarms as permitted by Section 10 of this ordinance.


SECTION 15: Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed, interpreted, or applied to abrogate, nullify, or abolish any law, ordinance, or code adopted by the Municipality governing the construction, alteration, addition, repair, removal, demolition, use, location, occupancy and maintenance of alarms specifically provided herein when any provision of this ordinance is found to be in conflict with any building, zoning, safety, health or other applicable law, ordinance or code of the Municipality existing on the effective date of this ordinance or hereafter adopted, the provision of which established the higher standard for the promotion and protection of the safety and welfare of the public shall prevail.

OPDAINED AND ENACTED this 11 day of June, 1991.

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

MUNICIPALITY OF MONROEVILLE

S/ 
Municipal Manager

S/ 
Mayor