

**Sec. 18-26. Security alarm systems—Definitions.**

- (a) *Alarm* means any electronic or mechanical device which emits any signal, whether electronic, audible, silent or recorded and which is designed, intended or used for the detection of an unauthorized intrusion or an attempted intrusion into a building, structure or premises or to signal an actual or attempted robbery. "Alarm" shall include any device which initiates a telephone call and delivers a recorded message to any emergency telephone number assigned to the police communications center of the City of Greensboro; any procedure by which a third party telephones any emergency telephone number and requests police service on the basis of having received an automatic alarm signal from a subscriber of such person or an alarm business represented by such person; or an audible signal or siren that when sounded is detected by a third party that results in a police response.
- (b) *Subscriber* means any person, firm, corporation or partnership owning or leasing an alarm system, or on whose premises an alarm system is maintained for the protection of such premises or property.
- (c) *False alarm* means any alarm signal communicated by any means that solicits police response and to which:
  - (1) The responding officer finds no evidence of unauthorized intrusion, attempted unauthorized intrusion, robbery, or attempted robbery; or
  - (2) Police response was canceled by the alarm subscriber or his/her agent. The cancellation of the alarm must take place prior to the officer's arrival to the scene of the reported alarm. The officer cannot be cancelled once he/she arrives on scene. If the alarm is determined to be false and the alarm subscriber or the alarm monitor cancellation arrives after the officer arrives, then the false alarm will be counted towards the twelve-month infraction period.

False alarms include negligently activated signals; signals which are the result of faulty or malfunctioning equipment; improperly installed or maintained equipment, signals activated to test the alarm system that have not been approved by the police department; and signals which are purposely activated to summon police personnel in nonemergency situations.

(Ord. No. 89-40, § 1, 3-6-89; Ord. No. 10-80, § 1, 6-15-10)

**Sec. 18-27. Same—False alarms.**

- (a) *First alarm.* If, within any twelve-consecutive-month period, the police department responds to one (1) false alarm at the same premises or location, the chief of police or his designee, shall send a letter to the subscriber informing him of the false alarms and requesting that he initiate action to stop further false alarms and informing him of the consequences of continued false alarms, specifically the civil penalty fee. There will be no fee assessed for the first false alarm within a twelve-consecutive-month period.
- (b) *Second false alarm.* Beginning with the second false alarm, a civil ticket shall be issued for each additional false alarm.
- (c) *Alarm tests.* Alarms activated during alarm system testing procedures shall not be considered false alarms if the subscriber first notifies and receives permission from the police department to test the system.
- (d) *Continuing audible alarms.* All audible alarms shall be equipped with an automatic reset device that will reset and cease to sound the alarm after thirty (30) minutes from the time

officers arrive at the alarm location, due to failure of the alarm to reset shall constitute a violation of this section. The subscriber shall reimburse the city for each violation of a continuing alarm activation at a rate of ten dollars (\$10.00) per violation.

*(Ord. No. 89-40, § 1, 3-6-89; Ord. No. 10-80, § 1, 6-15-10; Ord. No. 14-082, § 1, 6-17-14)*

### **Sec. 18-28. Same—Issuance of tickets and civil penalties.**

Any city official authorized by the chief of police may issue to the known owner of or person having control of any place of business or residence a civil penalty citation giving notice of the violation of section 18-27 herein. Any such official shall be authorized to secure the name and address of the owner or person in control of the place of business or residence found to be in violation of exceeding the number of alarms allowed.

Citations so issued may be delivered in person or mailed by registered mail to the person charged if he cannot readily be found. Each citation issued shall impose upon the owner or person in charge a civil penalty of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for the second fine; one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the third through fourth fine; two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) for the fifth through ninth fine; and five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for ten (10) or more fines within a twelve-month-continuous period, up to which shall be paid to the city tax collector within fourteen (14) days of receipt in full satisfaction of the assessed civil penalty. If the civil penalty is not paid within the time prescribed in the citation, the appropriate personnel of the city may initiate a civil action in the nature of debt to collect such civil penalty.

*(Ord. No. 89-40, § 1, 3-6-89; Ord. No. 10-80, § 1, 6-15-10; Ord. No. 14-082, § 2, 6-17-14)*