

ORDINANCE NO. 62-B-1981

AN ORDINANCE REGARDING EMERGENCY ALARM SYSTEMS AMENDING 62-1976 AND 62A-1979

WHEREAS, Kitsap County owns, operates and maintains a Central Communications (CenCom) facility designed to provide emergency communication services to all or most of the police and fire departments situated within Kitsap County; and

WHEREAS, many business and individuals desire to have a communications link with a communications facility in order that they may automatically or semi-automatically apprise the communications facility of various emergencies that may occur in order that communications facility may dispatch the appropriate response to the emergency; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public health, safety, and welfare to regulate such automatic or semi-automatic communications links so that false alarms are prevented or reduced and that the center's communications devices are not unjustifiably removed from service;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners:

Section 1. Definitions. Unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms shall have the meanings which follow:

- A. Alarm – a signal, transmission or other communication advising CenCom of an emergency for the purpose of having CenCom dispatch emergency services.
- B. Automatic communications link – a device of whatever nature capable of automatically, without human action, requesting (implied or directly) CenCom dispatch emergency services.
- C. CenCom – those facilities owned, operated, and maintained by Kitsap County to provide emergency communications services to a substantial portion of the police, fire, and other emergency service entities situated within Kitsap County.
- D. Director – the director of CenCom.
- E. Emergency – a situation or occurrence where there is a need or reasonable cause to believe there is a need, for immediate police. Fire or other emergency services; emergency shall include, but are not limited to burglaries, robberies and fires.
- F. False alarm – a signal, transmission or other communication to CenCom whether intentionally made or not, to which it can reasonably be expected that CenCom will dispatch emergency services when, in fact, there is no need for emergency services nor is there reasonable belief for need of emergency services.
- G. Person – any natural person, firm, partnership, joint stock company, unincorporated association or society or corporation of any character.
- H. Semi-automatic communications link – a device of whatever nature capable of requesting (impliedly or Direct) CenCom to dispatch emergency services; such a device may require human activation but shall not include telephone communication where a non-recorded, human voice requests emergency services.
- I. Sheriff – the elected official of Kitsap County, his deputies or designees.

Section 2. Registration of Alarm Systems. The Sheriff shall maintain a central register of all persons maintaining an alarm system within the unincorporated areas of Kitsap County.

- A. Registration required. It shall be unlawful for any person within the unincorporated areas of Kitsap County to have or maintain on their premises an alarm, whether automatic or semi-automatic unless the alarm is registered with the Sheriff and the registration fees are paid.
- B. Registration application. An application for registration shall be made to the Sheriff on forms provided by the Sheriff and shall include: (1) name of person; (2) address and telephone number; (3) location of the alarm system on the premises; (4) type of alarm (fire or burglary); and (5) such other information as the Sheriff deems advisable.
- C. Registration fee. The fee for registration shall be five dollars (\$5.00) and shall be made payable to the Sheriff by certified check, cash or money order. No fee shall be charged after initial registration for changes or amendments in registration information. No registration fee shall be charged to any entity of the state, county or municipal government.

Section 3. (stricken at time of proposal) -- Not attached in this mailing**

Section 4. False alarms. In the event a false alarm is received from any registrant, the Sheriff may inspect the permittee's premises and order corrective measures as are deemed appropriate. Further, the Sheriff is authorized to require the following measures be taken:

- A. First response. For response to a registrant's premises at which no other false alarms has occurred within the preceding six (6) months period (hereinafter called first response) no fee shall be charged; but the registrant is required to submit a written report to the Sheriff setting forth the cause of the false alarm, whether such alarm has been inspected by an authorized serviceman, the corrective measures taken and such other information as the Sheriff may reasonably require to determine the cause of such false alarm and the correction action necessary.
- B. Second response. For a second response to a registrant's premises within six (6) months after the first response (hereinafter called second response) no fee shall be charged; but the registrant is required to submit a written report to the Sheriff on forms proscribed by the Sheriff setting forth the cause of the false alarm, whether such alarm has been inspected by an authorized serviceman, the corrective measures taken and such other information as the Sheriff may reasonably require to determine the cause of such false alarm and the corrective action necessary.
- C. Third response. For a third response to a registrant's premises within six (6) months after the first response (hereinafter called the third response), a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) shall be charged to the registrant. The registrant is required to submit a written report to the Sheriff on forms proscribed by the Sheriff setting forth the cause of the false alarm, whether such alarm has been inspected by an authorized Serviceman, the corrective measures taken and such information as the Sheriff may reasonably require to determine the cause of such false alarm and the corrective action necessary.
- C. Fourth response. For fourth response to a registrant's premises within six (6) months after a first response (hereinafter called fourth response), and for all succeeding responses within six (6) months of the first response, a fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall be charged to the registrant. The registrant is required to submit a written report to the Sheriff on forms proscribed by the Sheriff setting forth the cause of the false alarm, whether such alarm has been inspected by an authorized serviceman, the corrective measures taken and such other information as the Sheriff may reasonably require to determine the cause of such false alarm and the corrective action necessary.

If the third false alarm or any succeeding false alarm is the result of failure to take necessary corrective action proscribed by the Sheriff, the Sheriff may order the disconnection of said alarm system provided that no disconnection shall be ordered as to any premises required by law to have an alarm system in operation. It shall be unlawful to reconnect an alarm system until the system has been corrected and a new registration is approved.

Section 5. Criminal Penalty. Any person who violates any portion of this ordinance shall be guilty of a Misdemeanor and shall be punished for imprisonment for not more than ninety (90) days or by a fine of not more than two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00).

Section 6. Severability. In the event that any portion of this ordinance is held invalid to any person or circumstance, The remainder of ordinance and its application to any other person or circumstance shall not be affected.

Section 7. Ordinance 62-1976 and 62A1979 are hereby repealed.

Section 8. Effective date. This ordinance shall be in full effect immediately upon passage thereof.

PASSED IN TO LAW -- November 2, 1981. Kitsap County Board of Commissioners.

**Original Ordinance available upon request -- Edited copy produced due to length of original document.

Revised 1-12-04