

SUMMARY: Amends Washoe County Code by revising provisions relating to alarm businesses, alarm systems and false alarms.

BILL NO. 1034

ORDINANCE NO. 859

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WASHOE COUNTY CODE BY AMENDING PROVISIONS RELATING TO ALARM BUSINESSES, ALARM SYSTEMS AND FALSE ALARMS AND BY ADDING PROVISIONS MAKING IT A MISDEMEANOR FOR EXCESSIVE FALSE ALARMS AND PROVISIONS FOR APPEAL OF SERVICE CHARGES.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF WASHOE DO ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. Chapter 54 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as section 2 of this ordinance.

SECTION 2.

54.065 Appeal of service charges.

1. Any person who is charged with a service charge pursuant to the provisions of this chapter may appeal the imposition of the service charge by filing a written notice of appeal with the county sheriff's office within 10 calendar days of receiving the written notice of service charge.

2. The sheriff or his designee shall consider the appeal and render a decision within 10 calendar days of receiving the written notice of appeal. The decision may affirm, amend or reverse the imposition of the service charge. In the event the appeal is based upon repair of the alarm system, evidence of repair by an alarm business must accompany the written notice of appeal.

SECTION 3. Section 54.010 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

54.010 Definitions. Unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms used in sections 54.015 to 54.055, inclusive, have the following meanings:

1. "Alarm business" means the business of selling, leasing, maintaining, servicing, installing, repairing, replacing or altering any alarm system in or upon any premises.

2. "Alarm system" means any mechanical or electronic device which is designed to be used alone or in conjunction with other equipment for:

(a) The detection of unauthorized entry for the purpose

of alerting others to such an entry or attempted entry.

(b) The purpose of alerting others to an emergency. Such a system may emit sounds or transmit a signal or message to others when activated.

3. "Alarm user" means any individual, partnership, corporation, or other person who has any alarm system installed upon premises in their possession.

4. "Audible alarm" means a device for detecting and alerting others of an unauthorized entry, or for alerting others to an emergency, which generates an audible sound on the premises when activated.

5. "False alarm" means an alarm signal which is not intended to elicit a response by a responding agency, but which does in fact elicit such a response. False alarm does not include an alarm signal caused by severe storms, natural disasters, power outages, acts of God, malfunctions of telephone line circuits, or other causes beyond the control of the alarm business operator or alarm user, except that a recurring alarm problem which could have been prevented by a change or modification of equipment will be considered a matter within the control of the alarm business operator or alarm user.

6. "Monitoring station" means any alarm business, telephone answering service, central station or other central facility which receives alarm signals and in turn notifies the appropriate responding agency or other person.

7. "Responding agency" means a law enforcement agency to whom the alarm signal is directly or indirectly transmitted, and includes the county sheriff's department.

8. "Responsible party" means the user or any person designated by the user to respond to the location of an alarm for the purposes of providing entry by a responding agency to the premises, resetting the alarm system or rendering it inoperative.

9. "Silent alarm" means a device for detecting unauthorized entry, or for alerting others to an emergency, which generates an alarm signal transmitted by telephone line, radio or other means to a monitoring station.

SECTION 4. Section 54.020 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

54.020 Notification to sheriff, designation of responsible parties.

1. Every alarm user who has an audible alarm installed upon his premises shall provide to the county sheriff's office the names and telephone numbers of at least three persons designated as responsible parties to perform the duties set forth in subsection 8 of section 54.010 during any hour of the day or night that the audible alarm is activated.

2. Every alarm user who contracts with a monitoring station for the purpose of notifying the appropriate responding agency when an alarm is activated shall provide the monitoring station with the name and phone number of a person or other representative designated as the responsible party to be notified to secure the premises or reset the alarm.

3. Every monitoring station shall maintain current listings, including names and telephone numbers, of those persons designated by alarm users as responsible parties.

SECTION 5. Section 54.025 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

54.025 Siren alarms prohibited; shutoff required; costs recovered where shut off exceeds 15 minutes.

1. It is unlawful for any person to install or maintain any audible alarm which creates a sound similar to that of an emergency vehicle siren.

2. Every audible alarm system must be equipped with a timing device which automatically shuts off the alarm within 15 minutes after it has been activated.

3. In the event that an audible alarm sounds in excess of 15 minutes from the time it is activated, the county sheriff may contact an alarm business to disconnect the alarm. Any costs incurred in disconnecting the alarm are payable by the alarm user.

SECTION 6. Section 54.040 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

54.040 Duty to respond to alarm locations; service charge for failure to respond.

1. It is the duty of an alarm user, responsible party or his representative to respond to the location of an alarm system within a reasonable period of time after notification by an alarm company, monitoring station or responding agency. The person responding shall take whatever steps are necessary to allow entry of law enforcement personnel into the premises, secure the property from further intrusion, reset the alarm system, arrange for the repair of the alarm system or take other necessary action.

2. Failure of the alarm user or responsible party or his representative to respond to the location of an alarm system will result in a service charge of \$50.00 payable to the county sheriff. This service charge is payable upon receipt of the written notice of service charge. The service charge imposed pursuant to this section may be imposed in addition to any other service charges imposed by this chapter.

SECTION 7. Section 54.045 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

54.045 False alarms; service charges.

1. A false alarm service charge shall be payable to the county sheriff when repeated false alarms have been received from any one source. The following schedule of service charges shall apply:

(a) No service charge shall be imposed for the first three false alarms in any consecutive 365 day period.

(b) For the fourth false alarm within any consecutive 365 day period, a service charge of \$25.00 shall be imposed.

(c) For the fifth false alarm within any consecutive 365 day period, a service charge of \$50.00 shall be imposed.

(d) For the sixth false alarm within any consecutive 365 day period, a service charge of \$75.00 shall be imposed.

(e) For the seventh and any subsequent false alarm within any consecutive 365 day period, a service charge of \$150.00 shall be imposed.

Proposed on the 20TH day of October, 1992.

Proposed by Commissioners Cornwall.

Passed on the 15TH day of December, 1992.

Vote:

Ayes: Commissioners: Larry Beck, Dianne Cornwall, Julia Leighton, and Rene Reid
Nays: Commissioners: None
Absent: Commissioners: None

[Signature]
Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:
JUDI BAILEY, CLERK
[Signature] Chief Deputy
County Clerk

This ordinance shall be in force and effect from and after the 28TH day of December, 1992.