

#3 Unfinished Business

# City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

6/29

1981

*Commissioner Wylie moved Ordinance*

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT
Mr. Kevin P. Crane	✓			
Mr. Thomas W. Danehy	✓			
Ms. Sandra Graham	✓			
Mr. Leonard J. Russell	✓			
Mr. David E. Sullivan	✓			
Mr. Walter J. Sullivan	✓			
Mr. Alfred Vellucci	✓			
Mr. David A. Wylie	✓			
Mayor Francis H. Duehay	✓			

9      0      0

*Passed to be Ordained -*

*Security Alarm Ordinance  
Amendment*



# City of Cambridge

In the Year One Thousand, Nine Hundred Eighty-One

## AN ORDINANCE

In amendment to an ordinance formerly entitled "The General Ordinances of the City of Cambridge" as revised in 1972 and now designated as "The Code of the City of Cambridge".

*Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Cambridge as follows:*

That Chapter Fifteen entitled "Police Department" is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof a new Article III entitled "Regulations for Security Alarm Systems".

### ARTICLE III. REGULATIONS FOR SECURITY ALARMS SYSTEMS

#### 15-15 Applicability.

This article is intended to regulate the activities and responsibilities of those persons who purchase, lease or rent alarm systems, devices or services. It is further intended to encourage the improvement in reliability of these alarm systems, devices or services and to insure that police department personnel will not be unduly diverted from responding to actual criminal activity as a result of responding to false alarms. The provisions of this article shall not apply to alarm systems owned and/or operated by agencies within the Cambridge City government.

#### 15-16. Administrative Rules.

The Chief of Police may promulgate such rules as may be necessary for the implementation of this ordinance.

#### 15-17. Direct Connection to the Police Department.

(A) Alarm systems shall be connected to the Communications Console in the police department by obtaining prior written approval from the Chief which shall be granted upon receipt of a fifty dollar (\$50.00) fee for the benefit of direct communication to the police console number which shall be a separate number from the emergency 911 line.

(B) In accordance with the normal bidding practices in effect in the city, the Purchasing Agent shall have the authority to request bids from alarm companies to furnish, at no cost to the city, a communications console and the necessary telephone lines which are compatible to the receipt of alarm signals from alarm systems whose lines are connected to the police department. Each bid shall set forth the annual fee each alarm user will be required to pay the alarm company for services rendered with respect to the

communications console. Services shall be set forth in the form of a written contract between the alarm company and the alarm user.

- C. Any alarm user may contract with any alarm company of his choice for the sale, installation and or servicing of the alarm system to be installed on his premises.

15-18. ALARM USER RESPONSIBILITY:

- A. Every alarm user shall submit to the Chief of Police the name and telephone number of at least two (2) other persons who can be reached at any time, day or night, and who are authorized to respond to an emergency signal transmitted by an alarm system, and who can open the premises in which the alarm system is located.
- B. All alarm users must notify the police department, in advance of any testing of equipment. Failure to notify the police department in advance of a testing of equipment shall constitute a false alarm and be subject to the assessment schedule contained herein.
- C. All alarm systems which use an audible bell or horn shall be equipped with an automatic shut off device which will deactivate the alarm system within ten (10) minutes. All alarm users with an audible bell or horn must comply with this section within 90 days of the effective date of the ordinance.

15-19. FALSE ALARMS: ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

- A. Any alarm system which has two (2) or more false alarms within a calendar year shall be subject to assessment as

provided herein.

1. After the police department has recorded two (2) separate false alarms from an alarm user within a calendar year, the police chief shall notify the alarm user, in writing and by certified mail, of such facts, and require the user to submit within ten (10) working days of receipt of such notice, a report describing the users efforts to discover and eliminate the cause or causes of the false alarms. This notice, by certified mail from the Chief of Police or his designee, shall contain the dates and times of each alleged false alarm.
2. In the event that the Chief of Police or his designee determine that a report submitted in accordance with paragraph (A1) of this section is unsatisfactory, or that the alarms user has failed to show by the report that he has taken or will take reasonable steps to eliminate or reduce false alarms, then the police chief or his designee shall order that the use of the alarm system be discontinued for a period of thirty (30) days.
3. Any user of an alarm system which transmits a third false alarm signal shall be assessed a fine of:
  - \$20. for the third false alarm in a calendar year.
  - \$50. for the fourth false alarm in a calendar year.
  - \$100. each for all subsequent false alarms.

All fines assessed hereunder shall be made payable to the City Treasurer for deposit in the General Fund.

4. If the alarm user submits a report as required by paragraph (A1) of this section, the Chief of Police or his designee shall determine if the action taken or to be taken will substantially reduce the likelihood of false alarms. If it is determined that the action taken or to be taken will substantially reduce the likelihood of false alarms, then the Chief of Police shall notify the alarm user, in writing, that no assessment will be made at that time. If no assessment is made at that time, the alarm user will be subject to assessment procedures on the next false alarm signal transmitted.

5. Upon failure of the user of an alarm system to pay two (2) consecutive fines assessed hereunder, within sixty (60) days of the assessment, the police chief shall order that the user discontinue the use of the alarm system for not more than six (6) months.
6. Proof that a false alarm was caused by an Act of God or by the actions of the telephone company shall constitute affirmative defense to assessment of the particular false alarm.
7. The provisions of this section concerning false alarms pertains to all alarm users except municipal, county and state agencies.

15-20

APPEALS PROCEDURES:

- A. Any alarm user who is aggrieved by a decision of the Chief of Police pursuant to Section VI of this ordinance may within five (5) working days of notice of the Chief's decision, appeal his case, in writing, to the Chief for further consideration.
- B. All decisions made by the Chief of Police after the appeals procedure, are final.

The only grounds for appealing a decision of the Chief are:

1. Proof of a false alarm assessment under Section VI.6 of the assessment schedule, and
2. Written verification from the alarm user and the alarm company, that all necessary steps have been taken to upgrade, improve and insure the accuracy of the alarm system.

15-21

PENALTIES:

- A. The following acts and omissions shall constitute violation of this ordinance punishable by fine up to fifty (50) dollars.
  1. Failure to obey an order of the police chief to discontinue use of an alarm system, after exhaustion of the right of appeal.

2. Failure to disconnect an automatic dialing device from any police department telephone lines within ninety (90) days of the effective date of the ordinance.
  3. Interconnection of an automatic dialing device to any police department telephone lines after the effective date of this ordinance.
  4. Failure to pay two (2) or more consecutive fines assessed under Section VI, paragraph (3) of the ordinance within (60) days from the date of assessment.
  5. Failure to comply with the requirements set forth in section V. (A-C) of this ordinance.
- 

In City Council June 29, 1981.

Passed to be ordained by a yea and nay vote:- Yeas 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

James L. Sullivan, City Manager

ATTEST:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.



# City of Cambridge

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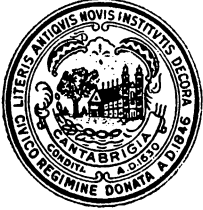
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In City Council June 29, 1981.

Passed to be ordained by a yeas and nays vote:- Yeas 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

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ATTEST:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.



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*Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Cambridge as follows:*

Chapter Fifteen entitled "Police Department", Article III entitled "Regulations for Security Alarm Systems", Section 15-17 entitled "Direct Connection to the Police Department" is hereby amended by striking out the present sub-paragraph (A) and substituting in place thereof a new sub-paragraph (A) which reads as follows:

- (A) Alarm systems shall be connected to the Communications Console in the police department by obtaining prior written approval from the Chief which shall be granted upon receipt of a fifty dollar (\$50.00) fee for the benefit of direct communication to the police console number which shall be a separate number from the emergency 911 line.

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This version was published

See full text-



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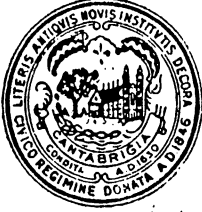
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Passed to a second reading at the City Council meeting held on June 8, 1981 and on or after June 22, 1981 the question comes on passing to be ordained.

ATTEST:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.



# City of Cambridge

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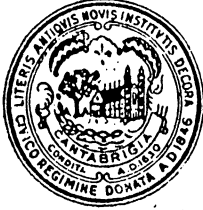
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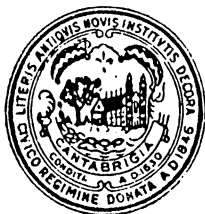
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ATTEST:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

# Marlboro Lights

The spirit of Marlboro  
in a low tar cigarette.



Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.

12 mg "tar," 0.8 mg nicotine av. per cigarette, FTC Report Dec. 79





# City of Cambridge

3.

IN CITY COUNCIL

June 8, 1981

COUNCILLOR WALTER SULLIVAN

ORDERED:

That Ordinance Number 949 entitled "Regulations for Security Alarms" be and hereby is amended as follows:

Section 15-17 entitled "Direct Connection to the Police Department" be amended by striking out the word "may" and inserting the word "shall" in line one and by adding after the word "Chief" the following "which shall be granted upon receipt of a fifty dollar (\$50.00) fee for the benefit of direct communication to the police console number which shall be a separate number from the emergency 911 line."

Passed to a second reading.

Order # 3

0-40

C. W. Sullivan amendment to the Security  
Alarms Ordinance.

In City Council,

June 1, 1981

6/1/1981  
Passed to 2nd Reading