



# City of Cambridge

In the Year One Thousand, Nine Hundred Eighty-Three

## 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:*

In Chapter Thirteen, "Offenses," Article IV, "Offenses Against Public Peace," section 13-10, entitled "Regulations for the Control of Noise" is hereby amended as follows:

Section V. "Prohibition of Non-Measured Noise Polluting Acts," is hereby amended by adding thereto the following new subsection (11):

11) Motor Vehicle Burglar Alarms. Notwithstanding the exemption in section XI. A. (1), the sounding of any burglar alarm in any motor vehicle on any street or public place of the City which creates an unreasonably loud sound for an unreasonable period of time is hereby declared to be a loud, disturbing and unnecessary noise in violation of this ordinance. If such noise continues for more than half an hour, and if, in that period of time, the Police Department is unable to locate the owner or operator of the vehicle, then such noise may be summarily abated by a police officer of the rank of Sergeant or above by one of the following methods:

- a) Said police officer, or a person working under his direction, may enter the vehicle and disconnect the alarm, if he is able to do so without damaging the vehicle or the alarm system. If said police officer employs a person to enter the vehicle and disconnect the alarm, said person may make a reasonable charge to the owner of the vehicle for his services.
- b) Said police officer may cause the vehicle to be towed to some convenient place, where an employee of the towing company may enter the vehicle and disconnect the alarm, if he is able to do so without damaging the vehicle or the alarm system.

If a vehicle is towed pursuant to this section, its owner shall be liable for the cost of such towing and storage charges in accordance with section 19.3 (b) of the most recent Cambridge Traffic Regulations; and the towing company shall be liable to the owner for any damage to the vehicle or its contents caused by the company's negligence in the course of towing or storage.



# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139  
Tel. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
ROBERT W. HEALY  
City Manager

June 13, 1983

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed for your consideration is a proposed ordinance to address the problem of motor vehicle burglar alarms that sound incessantly and the inability to locate the owner.

This ordinance first permits the vehicle to be entered to disconnect the alarm and, if this proves unsuccessful, then the vehicle may be towed.

Passage is recommended.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy  
City Manager

RWH/mbf  
Enc.

Re: Proposed amendment to the General Ordinances in Chapter Thirteen entitled "Offenses" in Article II "Offenses Against Public Peace" in section 13-10 entitled "Regulations for the Control of Noise" regarding motor vehicle burglar alarms that sound incessantly.

*copy sent to the Ordinance  
Committee 6/14/83 mlh*

In City Council,

June 13, 1983

*6/13/83  
Referred to  
Ordinance Council  
FOR  
REPORT*