Original Pg. 3

REVISED ORDINANCE NO. 962

Final Publication No. 2118. First publication in the Chronicle on June 11, 1981.

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 ALARM 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 compatable 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.

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 (1) 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 (1) 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 15-19 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 15-19 paragraph (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 15-19 paragraph (3) of the ordinance within (60) days from the date of assessment.

5. Failure to comply with the requirements set forth in section 15-18, sections A thru 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.

Revised ~~AMENDED~~ ORDINANCE NO. 962.

FINAL PUBLICATION NO. 2118 . First publication in the Chronicle on June 11, 1981

City of Cambridge

In the Year One Thousand, Nine Hundred Eighty-One

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(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 compatable 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 (1) 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 (1) 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~~ Section 15-19 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: ~~Section VI.B~~ sect 15-19 para 6

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~~ 15-19, ~~paragraph (3)~~ para 3 of the ordinance within (60) days from the date of assessment.

5. Failure to comply with the requirements set forth in ~~section V.~~ Section 15-18 sections A thru C (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.

See Council Order 12/15/80 - Amended Version December 15, 1980 -

City of Cambridge

In the Year One Thousand, Nine Hundred

AN ORDINANCE

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

15-15 ~~I.~~ 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 ~~II.~~ ADMINISTRATIVE RULES:

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

15-17 ~~III.~~ DIRECT CONNECTION TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT:

A. Alarm systems may be connected to the Communications Console in the police department by obtaining prior written approval from the Chief.

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 compatable 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 ~~IV.~~ AUTOMATIC DIAL DEVICES:

Automatic dialing services will not be interconnected to any telephone lines at the police department. Any person using an automatic dialing device may have the device interconnected to a telephone line transmitting directly to:

1. A Central Station,
2. An answering service, or
3. Any privately owned or operated facility or terminal.

15 19 ~~V.~~ 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 constitue 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.

15-20 ~~VI.~~ FALSE ALARMS: ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

A. Any alarm system which has five (5) or more false alarms within a calendar year shall be subject to assessment as

provided herein.

1. After the police department has recorded five (5) 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 alarm 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 false alarm signal shall be assessed a fine of:

   $20. ~~each~~ for the ~~fifth~~ ~~to seventh~~ Third false alarm in a calendar year.

   $30. ~~each~~ for the ~~eighth to eleventh~~ FOURTH false alrm in a calendar year.

   $100 ~~$50~~ each for ~~twelve or more~~ All Subsequent false alarms ~~in a calendar~~ year.

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

Amendment By Councilman Wylie

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.

15-21 ~~VII.~~ 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.

15-22 ~~VIII.~~ 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.

CCM-101

City of Cambridge

IN CITY COUNCIL

December 15, 1980

COUNCILLOR WYLIE

ORDERED: That the proposed amendment to the General Ordinances entitled "False Alarms" be amended in Section VI entitled False Alarms: Assessment Schedule by striking out paragraph three and inserting a new paragraph three which reads as follows:

3. Any user of an alarm system which transmits a 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.

TABLED BY COUNCILLOR WYLIE

Relief Amended

TO Paul DATE 1/29 TIME 8:40a

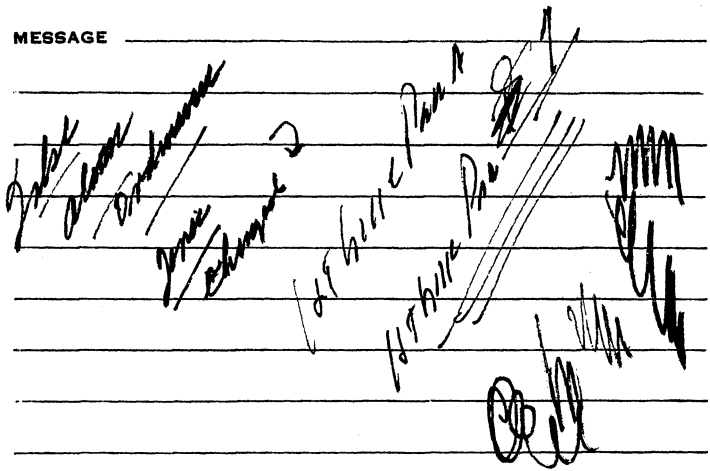
WHILE YOU WERE OUT

Michael Belmont

(Cambridge Police) PHONE 78-387

TELEPHONED	✓	PLEASE CALL	✓
CALLED TO SEE YOU		WILL CALL AGAIN	

MESSAGE



MESSAGE RECEIVED BY

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CITY HALL, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139 • (617) 498-9020

LAW DEPARTMENT

RUSSELL B. HIGLEY
CITY SOLICITOR

MICHAEL C. COSTELLO
ASSISTANT CITY SOLICITOR

EDWARD A. CUNNINGHAM
ANDREW T. TRODDEN
SEVERLIN B. SINGLETON
DAVID B. O'CONNOR
LEGAL COUNSEL

CHARLES A. WATSON
LEGISLATIVE AGENT

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
MAR 6 4 PM '81
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

March 6, 1981

Paul E. Healy
City Clerk
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Re: False Alarm Ordinance

Dear Mr. Healy:

Please be advised that I have reviewed the False Alarm Ordinance as amended. I agree with your recommendation to revise section (A.) and section (1.) of the Assessment Schedule to correspond with the amended fine provisions of section (3.)

Very truly yours,

Russell B. Higley

Russell B. Higley
City Solicitor

RBH:ln

ORDINANCE NO. 949.

Final Publication No. 2076. First Publication in the Chronicle on December 18, 1980.

City of Cambridge

In the Year One Thousand, Nine Hundred Eighty - One

AN ORDINANCE

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provided herein.

1. After the police department has recorded ~~five~~ two (5) 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 ~~3rd~~ 2nd 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.

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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.

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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

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15-22. 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 January 26, 1981.

Passed to be ordained as amended by a yea and nay vote: Yeas 7 ; Nays 0; Absent 2 .

ATTEST: Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

James L. Sullivan, City Manager.

C. C. 106

False Alarm Ordinance

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

Councillor Wylie -

In City Council 1/26/ 1981

Passed to be Ordained as Amended

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT
Mr. Kevin P. Crane	✓			
Mr. Thomas W. Danehy			✓	
Ms. Saundra Graham	✓			
Mr. Leonard J. Russell	✓			
Mr. David E. Sullivan	✓			
Mr. Walter J. Sullivan			✓	
Mr. Alfred Vellucci	✓			
Mr. David A. Wylie	✓			
Mayor Francis H. Duehay	✓			
	7	0	2	

30
2

CCM-101

City of Cambridge

CALENDAR ITEM NO. 8.
IN CITY COUNCIL

~~December 15, 1980~~
January 26, 1981

COUNCILLOR WYLIE

ORDERED: That the proposed amendment to the General Ordinances entitled "False Alarms" be amended in Section VI entitled False Alarms: Assessment Schedule by striking out paragraph three and inserting a new paragraph three which reads as follows:

3. Any user of an alarm system which transmits a 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.

In City Council January 26, 1981.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 7 members.
Attest:- Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:- Paul E. Healy

CCM-101

City of Cambridge

IN CITY COUNCIL

December 15, 1980

COUNCILLOR WYLIE

ORDERED: That the proposed amendment to the General Ordinances entitled "False Alarms" be amended in Section VI entitled False Alarms: Assessment Schedule by striking out paragraph three and inserting a new paragraph three which reads as follows:

3. Any user of an alarm system which transmits a 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.

TABLED BY COUNCILLOR WYLIE

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 949.
Final Publication No. 2076. First Publication in the Chronicle on December 18, 1980.

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 may be connected to the Communications Console in the police department by obtaining prior written approval from the Chief.

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 compatable 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. AUTOMATIC DIAL DEVICES:

Automatic dialing services will not be interconnected to any telephone lines at the police department. Any person using an automatic dialing device may have the device interconnected to a telephone line transmitting directly to:

1. A Central Station,
2. An answering service, or
3. Any privately owned or operated facility or terminal.

15-19. 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 constitue 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.

15-20. 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.

15-21. 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.

15-22. 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 January 26, 1981.

Passed to be ordained as amended by a yea and nay vote: Yeas 7 ; Nays 0; Absent 2 .

ATTEST: Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

James L. Sullivan, City Manager.

provided herein.

1. After the police department has recorded five (5) 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 alarm 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 false alarm signal shall be assessed a fine of:

   $20. each for the fifth to seventh false alarm in a calendar year.

   $30. each for the eighth to eleventh false alrm in a calendar year.

   $50 each for twelve or more false alarms in a calendar year.

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

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FIRST PUBLICATION NO. 2074.

City of Cambridge

In the Year One Thousand, Nine Hundred Eighty

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 may be connected to the Communications Console in the police department by obtaining prior written approval from the Chief.

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 compatable 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.

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3. Any privately owned or operated facility or terminal.

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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 constitue 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.

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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.

15-21. 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.

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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.

15-22. 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 January 26, 1981.

Passed to be ordained as amended by a yea and nay vote: Yeas 7 ; Nays 0; Absent 2 .

ATTEST: Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

James L. Sullivan, City Manager.

City of Cambridge

In City Council December 15, 1980

The ORDINANCE *Committee*

to which comprised of the entire membership of the City Council was referred the petition of Chief Leo Davenport of the Police Department to amend the General Ordinances of the City of Cambridge in Chapter Fifteen entitled Police Department by adding at the end thereof a new Article III entitled Regulations for Security Alarm Systems.

Presiding Councillor David A. Wylie.

Present: Assistant City Manager Robert Healy, Russell Higley, City Solicitor, Linda Neary, George Fosque and Michael Belmont of the Intergrated Criminal Apprehension Program.

The Committee heard from George Fosque of ICAP who presented statistics indicating that an average of 22 alarms are received every day on the Emergency Number 911 and consume an average of 6.25 man hours of patrol every day, that 98.15% of the alarms received are considered false alarms. He further stated that only 2% of the alarms received where real and required a response that the remainder were caused by operator or operational failure and that the usual response was accomplished by two man cruisers. He stressed that the high incidence of false alarms causes and attitude problem for the police, since a police officer after answering so many false alarms may be unprepared for a real emergency. He further stated that the Department always responds to alarms; that they have difficulty in locating the automatic dialers and stressed the need for all alarms to be connected with the Communications System Console in the Police Department as outlined in the proposed ordinance, that in a monthly period 187.7 man hours were required to respond to alarm calls and involved 1270 officers. He presented detailed statistics of a study over four months indicating that 405 locations were responsible for 655 alarms; that 1.85% constituted valid alarms involving crime, vandalism or other criminal incidents.

In response to questions by Councillor Wylie he stated that $12-$16 dollars per month would be required to connect with the Central Station and proposed a system of fines for repeated false alarms and a system to correct this

REPORT

Committee on Ordinance

RE: FALSE ALARM ORDINANCE.

In City Council,

December 15, 1980

12/15/1980
Passed to 2nd Reading
Published 12/18/80
Cambridge Chronicle

problem which provided for appeal procedures and guidelines to effect compliance with the proposed ordinance.

At the conclusion of the presentation, a discussion ensued over the assessment schedule for false alarms and Councillor Wylie stated that he would file an order with the City Council to address this problem.

In response to questions by Councillor Wylie, Mr. Belmont indicated that all the police officers that they had surveyed indicated that they were in favor of the ordinance as submitted.

The Chair declared the hearing closed and directed that the proposed ordinance be reported favorably from the Committee to the City Council at its meeting of December 15, 1980 for their consideration.

For the Committee,

Councillor David A. Wylie,
Chairman.

Committee on Ordinances 715 December 10, 1980

Present
Absent
Also present

Check Report
Reynolds
Ward
Bland

CWyllc

Vice Mayor Bradley - business - Lloyd -
Councilman Higley - Joseph Commerson -
Tom George Fosque
Michael Belmont

Statistics for record 9% to 13% Response to alarm calls

625 alarms received - Monthly in Police 911 Center
60% of all police responses are made by 2 man teams
2% Real
98% False - Opens & Failure -

1270 Police Officers respond to alarm calls each month

189.7 man hours actual patrol time consumed by alarm each month

We would always respond to all bona fide Automatic dialers - eliminate - no way to locate them - Cannot disconnect them - need Central Station Service

CWyllc costs more to have Central Station Last 12 to deliver per month

We do respond to banks even though they call and say OK

10 minutes for auto shutoff
5th False Alarm then cut off -

Myths → Why (5) too much Leeway - Alarm
systems are Valued

= 700 / with 14 legitimate — per month —

Myths why not use the Card - Dont want to
make people reluctant to call

700 per month x 12 - 8400 - 2% / Rate -
Myths re 5th for false alarm but suppose
owns 2 up - real problem -
Answer P.O checks entry etc - then entry card
system is used. Possible to miss possible
entry - does overcome problem when
= burn ones problem -

Upstairs

Down Stairs Exit
Check on Inside flashing additional lamp -
1 — Exit Tap re Doors Keyboard —
2 / 50 fee on each Police Response on
Robbery or Burglary Leeway Alarm
which have to be worked 98% of 8400

Report should Report of ordinance
Committee favorable recc -

#6 to #3 on Call ✓ 20 on the Chart
OR 50 on the 4th
/ on of the Chart

Separate Order to Chart
OR Do not include on
the report
/

Include in report that Board after
/ when agreed responded favorably
Not be charted

City of Cambridge
Police Department

TELEPHONE
(617) 868-3400

Office of the Chief of Police

LEO F. DAVENPORT
CHIEF OF POLICE

HEADQUARTERS
ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
5 WESTERN AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

July 17, 1980

Mr. James L. Sullivan
City Manager
City of Cambridge
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

As you know, the primary concern of the Cambridge Police Department is the safety of our citizens. To this end, we are intent on freeing-up uniformed patrol officers to focus on neighborhood crime problems, medical emergencies, traffic accidents and other events of major concern to the populace. One activity that is consuming an ever increasing amount of patrol man hours is the response to false security alarms. At the current time, over 11% of all patrol dispatches are to false security alarms.

In an effort to regulate this high incidence of false alarms and to encourage alarm users to improve faulty alarm systems, we are proposing that the City of Cambridge adopt a "False Alarm" ordinance. This false alarm ordinance would seek to:

1. Restrict the use of notoriously unreliable automatic dialers.

2. Mandate a 10 minute automatic shut off on all audible alarms (bells, sirens, etc.).

3. Fine businesses and residences that have more than 4 false alarms in any calendar year.

A draft copy of the ordinance that we are proposing has been submitted to your office and has received approval from City Solicitor Russell Higley. In addition, we have the support of the Chamber of Commerce, who recommended such action at a recent council hearing.

Mr. James L. Sullivan
City Manager

July 17, 1980

What we are proposing is not something new. Many surrounding Massachusetts cities and towns, as well as municipalities around the country, have adopted such an ordinance with positive results.

We would appreciate your assistance in obtaining passage of this ordinance. Would you place it on the agenda for an upcoming council meeting.

Thank you for your assistance on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Leo F. Davenport
Chief of Police

LFD:fb

cc: Mr. Robert Healy

RECEIVED
JUL 24 4 38 PM '80
OFFICE OF THE
CITY MANAGER

AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 962.

FINAL PUBLICATION NO. 2118 . First publication in the Chronicle on June 11, 1981

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 compatable 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.

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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.

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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.

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15-20 APPEALS PROCEDURES:

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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.

ORDINANCE NO. 949.

Final Publication No. 2076. First Publication in the Chronicle on December 18, 1980.

City of Cambridge

In the Year One Thousand, Nine Hundred Eighty - One

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15-17. DIRECT CONNECTION TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT:

A. Alarm systems may be connected to the Communications Console in the police department by obtaining prior written approval from the Chief.

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 compatable 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. AUTOMATIC DIAL DEVICES:

Automatic dialing services will not be interconnected to any telephone lines at the police department. Any person using an automatic dialing device may have the device interconnected to a telephone line transmitting directly to:

1. A Central Station,
2. An answering service, or
3. Any privately owned or operated facility or terminal.

15-19. 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 constitue 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.

15-20. FALSE ALARMS: ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

A. Any alarm system which has five (5) or more false alarms within a calendar year shall be subject to assessment as

provided herein.

1. After the police department has recorded five (5) 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 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.

15-21. 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.

15-22. 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 January 26, 1981.

Passed to be ordained as amended by a yea and nay vote: Yeas 7 ; Nays 0; Absent 2 .

ATTEST: Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

James L. Sullivan, City Manager.

Committee on Ordinances 12/10/1980

City of Cambridge

In the Year One Thousand, Nine Hundred

AN ORDINANCE

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

I. 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.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE RULES:

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

III. DIRECT CONNECTION TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT:

A. Alarm systems may be connected to the Communications Console in the police department by obtaining prior written approval from the Chief.

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 compatable 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.

IV. AUTOMATIC DIAL DEVICES:

Automatic dialing services will not be interconnected to any telephone lines at the police department. Any person using an automatic dialing device may have the device interconnected to a telephone line transmitting directly to:

1. A Central Station,
2. An answering service, or
3. Any privately owned or operated facility or terminal.

V. 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 constitue 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.

VI. FALSE ALARMS: ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

A. Any alarm system which has five (5) or more false alarms within a calendar year shall be subject to assessment as

provided herein.

1. After the police department has recorded five (5) 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 alarm 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 false alarm signal shall be assessed a fine of:

   $20. each for the fifth to seventh false alarm in a calendar year.

   $30. each for the eighth to eleventh false alrm in a calendar year.

   $50 each for twelve or more false alarms in a calendar year.

   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.

VII. 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.

VIII. 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.

Councillor Wyllie

Ordered:

That the proposed amendment to the General Ordinances entitled "False Alarms" be amended in Section VI: entitled: False Alarms: Assessment Schedule, ~~paragraph 3~~ by striking out paragraph 3 and inserting a new paragraph 3 which reads as follows:

CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT
ALARM STUDY

In the City of Cambridge, the alarm rate per day has reached a crucial stage. A recent study by the Cambridge Police Department indicates that an average of 22 alarms are received at the police 911 center each day. These alarms are responsible for consuming an average of 6.25 man hours of patrol time every day. This is active patrol time, when a patrol unit is tied up and not in service. What tends to increase our concern over the rising number of alarms is that the study of the problem in Cambridge reveals that 98.15 percent of all alarms received are believed to be false alarms.[1]

This high incidence of false alarms has led to problems for the police department which must respond to them. One of the most important problems is that of officers attitudes. Police officer who continually respond to repeated false alarms tend to give all alarms a low priority delayed response; or worse, they arrive at the scene totally unprepared for the real threat present at a valid alarm. Another problem is that of high speed response to false hold-up, burglary, or other in-progress alarms. This unnecessarily endangers the police officer(s) responding to the scene, as well as other motorist and bystanders.

Besides being a threat to the public safety and welfare, false alarms incurr a high cost to the city in terms of salaries, wear and tear on police vehicles, and most importantly, loss of manpower from other activities. The police officer's time could be spent doing more productive police work such as a directed patrol, follow-up investigation, or traffic management.

FALSE ALARMS:

The problem of false alarms is not something new to the City of Cambridge, or to the alarm industry. Historically, the use of alarms dates back to 390 B. C., when the Roman Empire used sqawking geese to alert them to surprise attacks from the Gauls. Although todays alarm systems are more highly complex than those in use in 390 B. C., they are sometimes just as unreliable. Alarms have proven effective

1. All alarms reported were checked against reports written for burglaries and attempts, robberies and attempts, vandalisms, larcenies, and other crimes which might have been reported.

in deterring and apprehending burglars, but, they are subject to certain inherent problems; false alarms. Nationally, 90 to 98 percent of all alarms transmitted are said to be false. Three of the basic factors that can be attributed to false alarms are; 1) user error or negligence, 2) poor installation or servicing, and 3) faulty equipment.

User error or negligence is the primary cause of false alarms. User error or negligence is estimated to account for more than 50 percent of all false alarms. Some users do not fully understand how to operate their alarm system. Alarms are most commonly set off by users who fail to lock doors and windows, or who enter a secured area when the system is engaged. Alarm systems are also activated accidentally by workers, custodians, and domestic help, or even by pets. Some users have even been known to set off their alarm system just to time the police response to their premises.

Poor installation or servicing is the second factor leading to false alarms. In order to function as intended, alarm systems must be properly installed and maintained. Equipment that is installed in an inappropriate environment (or improperly positioned, set, or wired) produce false alarms. Likewise, if equipment is not adequately maintained, the chances for a false alarm increase.

The third common cause of false alarms is faulty equipment. If equipment is electrically or mechanically defective, the alarm can be activated when the equipment breaks or shorts out the circuit. The use of cheap, substandard equipment that is especially vulnerable to breakdowns or can be easily set off by a variety of extraneous conditions leads to frequent false alarms.

In addition to the alarms that can be traced to one of the above central causes, approximately 25 percent of all false alarms fall into an unknown category.

The Cambridge Police Department has studied four months worth of alarms in order to present an accurate picture of the false alarm problem within the city. The four months looked at were; June, August, and November of 1979, and January, 1980. Some of the major findings of the study were;

A. 9 - 13 percent of all dispatches of police units are to alarm calls.

B. on the average, 405 locations are responsible for 656 alarms monthly, with 33 locations being primary generators2 accounting for 32 percent of all alarms.

C. 21 percent of all alarms receive a police response by more than one police unit.

D. 60 percent of all police responses are made by 2 man cars (2M), 14 percent by walking men (X), and 26 percent by route men in one man cars, or other police vehicles (R).

E. 1,270 police personnel respond to alarms each month.

F. 187.7 man hours of actual patrol time on active dispatch (i.e. unit tied up) are consumed by alarm responses each month.

G. In the four months surveyed, only 1.85 percent of all alarms were valid alarms (alarms where police officers reported that an actual or attempted burglary, robbery, vandalism, or other criminal incident had occurred).

H. Alarms do not appear to be sounding on any particular day of the week, or hour of the day.

CONCLUSION:

The City of Cambridge is not the only city in the country to be experiencing a problem with alarms. Part of the problem lies with the alarm industry. As the crime rate continues to increase and more people become personnaly affected by crime, the need for alarms has increased. New alarms are being installed daily, and to meet the growing demand new alarm companies are constantly cropping up. Without the proper

2 A Primary Generator is any business or individual who registers four or more alarms recorded in a single month.

guidelines to control alarm companies and alarm users, the false alarm rate will increase. It is already consuming over 6 hours of patrol time daily in this city. It is for these reasons, that we are suggesting that an ordinance be written to control the false alarms. This ordinance should try and solve the alarm problem at the primary source, the user. By placing sanctions on the alarm users for false alarms, the users would be compelled to upgrade their alarm systems. The end result would be that the user would be provided better alarm service from the alarm agency, and the police department, who would have more confidence in the validity of the alarm signal.

CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

ALARM SURVEY: FINDINGS SUMMARY

A. Number of Alarms by Shift;

MONTH	SHIFTS DAY	FIRST HALF	LAST HALF	TOTAL ALARM CALLS
JUNE	157	287	165	609
AUG.	198	257	212	667
NOV.	184	241	231	656
JAN.	209	256	229	694

DAY SHIFT = 8am to 4pm
FIRST HALF = 4pm to 12m
LAST HALF = 12m to 8am

B. Response to Alarm Calls by Type of Unit;

MONTH	TYPE OF UNIT M	X	R	TOTAL RESPONSES
JUNE	438	90	191	719
AUG.	490	126	256	872
NOV.	475	133	217	825
JAN.	503	101	157	761

M = 2 man marked cruiser
X = walking men
R = one man marked cruisers and other police vehicles

C. Time Consumed (in minutes) by Type of Unit;

MONTH	TYPE OF UNIT M	X	R	TOTAL TIME (IN HOURS)
JUNE	9314	891	2048	204.1
AUG.	8248	1156	2249	194.2
NOV.	9607	1111	2273	216.5
JAN.	11064	1158	1449	227.8

MONTH	TOTAL DISPATCHES	TOTAL ALARMS	% OF ALARMS	TOTAL POLICE PERSONNEL INVOLVED
JUNE	6550	609	9.3%	1157
AUGUST	6267	667	10.64%	1362
NOVEMBER	6163	656	10.62%	1300
JANUARY	5264	694	13.40%	1262
	24249	2626	10.99% (average)	5081

Of the 694 alarms recorded for the month of January, 1980, 96.26% (668) were false.

Of the 656 alarms recorded for the month of November, 1979, 99.09% (650) were false.

Of the 667 alarms recorded for the month of August, 1979, 98.81% (659) were false.

Of the 609 alarms recorded for the month of June, 1979, 98.53% (600) were false.

694 − 668 = 26

656 − 650 = 6

667 − 659 = 8

609 − 600 = 9

TOTAL ALARMS, BY DAY OF THE WEEK FOR THE FOUR MONTHS STUDIED:

	JUNE-1979	AUGUST-1979	NOVEMBER-1979	JANUARY-1980
MONDAY	73	96	93	66
TUESDAY	85	88	78	98
WEDNESDAY	80	104	91	109
THURSDAY	83	115	110	121
FRIDAY	93	92	102	86
SATURDAY	107	87	93	126
SUNDAY	88	85	89	88
MONTHLY TOTALS	609	667	656	694

JUNE, 1979 - received an average of 20.30 alarm calls per day.
1157 police personnel were utilized.

AUGUST, 1979 - received an average of 22.23 alarm calls per day.
1362 police personnel were utilized.

NOVEMBER, 1979 - received an average of 21.91 alarm calls per day.
1300 police personnel were utilized.

JANUARY, 1980 - received an average of 22.38 alarm calls per day.
1262 police personnel were utilized.

ALARMS BY HOUR OF THE DAY:

	NOV.	%	JAN.	%
0001 - 0100 =	31	4.72 %	42	5.84 %
01 - 0200 =	38	5.80 %	37	5.15 %
0201 - 0300 =	29	4.42 %	32	4.45 %
0301 - 0400 =	24	3.65 %	27	3.75 %
0401 - 0500 =	19	2.90 %	31	4.31 %
0501 - 0600 =	19	2.90 %	19	2.64 %
0601 - 0700 =	21	3.20 %	29	4.03 %
0701 - 0800 =	31	4.72 %	32	4.45 %
0801 - 0900 =	38	5.80 %	31	4.31 %
0901 - 1000 =	24	3.65 %	31	4.31 %
1001 - 1100 =	24	3.65 %	24	3.33 %
1101 - 1200 =	19	2.90 %	26	3.61 %
1201 - 1300 =	14	2.12 %	24	3.33 %
1301 - 1400 =	17	2.59 %	25	3.48 %
01 - 1500 =	16	2.44 %	24	3.33 %
1501 - 1600 =	22	3.35 %	14	1.94 %
1601 - 1700 =	28	4.26 %	21	2.92 %
1701 - 1800 =	26	4.00 %	35	4.86 %
1801 - 1900 =	35	5.33 %	36	5.00 %
1901 - 2000 =	29	4.42 %	34	4.72 %
2001 - 2100 =	42	6.40 %	23	3.18 %
2101 - 2200 =	35	5.33 %	41	5.70 %
2201 - 2300 =	32	5.00 %	41	5.70 %
2301 - 2400 =	43	6.55 %	40	5.56 %
	656		719	

ALARM STUDY UP-DATE

A one week up-date on the Alarm Study was conducted during the week of May 12 to May 19, 1980. Specifically, the study began at 0740 hours on May 12 and concluded at 0739 hours on May 19.

For the purpose of gathering additional information on alarm calls for service a new call slip was designed specifically for alarm calls (see attached). This was the only call slip used to record alarm calls during the one week trial survey.

The results of this study are outlined below. For comparison, I have included corresponding information gathered from the original four month alarm study.

- - - -

ALARM RESPONSES BY SHIFT;

DAY SHIFT	FIRST HALF	LAST HALF
29	52	42
43*	60*	66*

ALARM RESPONSE BY TYPE OF UNIT;

M	X	R
79	12	49
109*	26*	49*

TIME CONSUMED BY TYPE OF UNIT;

	M	X	R
Min.	1646 (2194)*	65 (248)*	522 (460)*
Hrs.	26.9 (36.5)*	1.1 (4.1)*	8.7 (7.6)*

* These figures have been gathered from a previous four month study of alarm calls, and are used here to show a comparison.

M = 2 man marked police cruiser
X = uniformed walking man
R = one man marked police cruiser and other police vehicles

ALARM CALLS BY DAY OF THE WEEK;

MONDAY	=	25	19*
TUESDAY	=	19	21*
WEDNESDAY	=	17	23*
THURSDAY	=	20	25*
FRIDAY	=	17	22*
SATURDAY	=	12	23*
SUNDAY	=	12	18*

ALARM CALLS BY HOUR OF THE DAY;

0001 - 0100	=	5	8*	1201 - 1300	=	4	4*
0101 - 0200	=	12	9*	1301 - 1400	=	2	5*
0201 - 0300	=	6	7*	1401 - 1500	=	5	4*
0301 - 0400	=	2	6*	1501 - 1600	=	4	4*
0401 - 0500	=	2	6*	1601 - 1700	=	4	6*
0501 - 0600	=	1	4*	1701 - 1800	=	8	7*
0601 - 0700	=	5	6*	1801 - 1900	=	6	8*
0701 - 0800	=	9	7*	1901 - 2000	=	11	7*
0801 - 0900	=	7	8*	2001 - 2100	=	8	7*
0901 - 1000	=	2	6*	2101 - 2200	=	7	8*
1001 - 1100	=	1	6*	2201 - 2300	=	3	8*
1101 - 1200	=	3	5*	2301 - 2400	=	6	9*

* These figures represent a comparison of the data collected during the previous four month study of alarm calls.

Of all the alarms recorded during the week, only two (2) reports were written. These reports indicate that a criminal act or evidence of an aborted criminal act were present at the scene.

Of the twelve alarms reported from banks in the city, three were reported at the Charles Bank Trust of 124 Broadway and 2 were reported at the East Cambridge Savings Bank of 292 Cambridge Street.

There were a total of ten school alarms received and 4 of these were from the Tobin School. Other businesses that experienced multiple alarm soundings during the week are;

Crate and Barrel - 222 Third Street	= 2
Roache's Sports - 1157 Mass Avenue	= 3
Maytag Gray Inc. - 22 Water Street	= 2
MBTA Booth #33 - Kendall Square	= 2

A total of nine (9) alarms were received after a power failure which occurred on Monday evening / Tuesday morning. A break down of these alarms is as follows;

5 businesses
3 residential
1 school

Since there is no report of a burglary or other criminal incident at the locations represented under each category, it could be assumed that the alarms were caused by the sudden surge of power when the electicity returned. This brings the false alarm rate for the week to 91%.

ALARM STUDY UP-DATE;

The following is a breakdown of the percent of alarm calls per hour of the day. When the times are broken down into opening and closing times, a pattern develops.

By taking the four hour period from 6am to 10am as opening time for businesses, that is the time when cleaners and owners open the building, you will see that more than 18.5% of all alarm calls are received during these hours. This compares with 17.25% for the same time period during the original four month study. The chart below shows the comparison of alarm soundings during the opening, closing and business hours for the four month study and the one week up-date.

	Four Month Study		One Week Up-Date
2301 - 0200	16.81%	LATE CLOSINGS	18.86%
0201 - 0600	14.51%		9.10%
0601 - 1000	17.23%	OPENINGS	18.69%
1001 - 1800	25.55%	BUSINESS HOURS	25.22%
1801 - 2100	14.52%	NORMAL CLOSINGS	20.00%
2101 - 2300	10.86%		8.13%

ORDINANCE NO. 949.

Final Publication No. 2076. First Publication in the Chronicle on December 18, 1980.

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 may be connected to the Communications Console in the police department by obtaining prior written approval from the Chief.

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 compatable 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. AUTOMATIC DIAL DEVICES:

Automatic dialing services will not be interconnected to any telephone lines at the police department. Any person using an automatic dialing device may have the device interconnected to a telephone line transmitting directly to:

1. A Central Station,
2. An answering service, or
3. Any privately owned or operated facility or terminal.

15-19. 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 constitue 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.

15-20. FALSE ALARMS: ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

A. Any alarm system which has five (5) or more false alarms within a calendar year shall be subject to assessment as

provided herein.

1. After the police department has recorded five (5) 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 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.

15-21. 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.

15-22. 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 January 26, 1981.

Passed to be ordained as amended by a yea and nay vote: Yeas 7 ; Nays 0; Absent 2 .

ATTEST: Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

James L. Sullivan, City Manager.

ORDINANCE NO. 949.

Final Publication No. 2076. First Publication in the Chronicle on December 18, 1980.

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 may be connected to the Communications Console in the police department by obtaining prior written approval from the Chief.

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 compatable 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. AUTOMATIC DIAL DEVICES:

Automatic dialing services will not be interconnected to any telephone lines at the police department. Any person using an automatic dialing device may have the device interconnected to a telephone line transmitting directly to:

1. A Central Station,
2. An answering service, or
3. Any privately owned or operated facility or terminal.

15-19. 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 constitue 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.

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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.

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15-22. 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 January 26, 1981.

Passed to be ordained as amended by a yea and nay vote: Yeas 7 ; Nays 0; Absent 2 .

ATTEST: Paul E. Healy, City Clerk.

James L. Sullivan, City Manager.

16.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

August 4, 1980

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed please find copy of a communication from Police Chief Leo F. Davenport, along with a copy of a proposed "False Alarm" Ordinance

Very truly yours,

James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/mbf
Encs. 2

Agenda # 16 O-3

Request from Chief Leo F. Davenport
for a "False Alarm" ordinance.

Amended publication
3/26/81 - Chronicle

Copy of amended pub
sent to Michael Belmont
Police Dept. 3/24/81 (dl)

In City Council,

August 4, 1980

Referred to the
Ordinance Committee

Copy sent to C. Wylie
8/5/80 (dl)

1/26/81 Passed to
be ordained as
amended
7-0-2