

ORDINANCE NO. 488

AN ORDINANCE ASSIGNING SERVICE CHARGES FOR EXCESSIVE FALSE ALARMS

The City Council of the City of Ada hereby ordains that Chapter 32 of the Ada City Code is amended by adding Article III as follows:

ARTICLE III. ALARM SYSTEMS

Sec. 32-38. Purpose.

The City of Ada deems it necessary to regulate alarm systems to which the Police Department personnel are expected to respond to in order to protect public or private property. The purpose of this Article is to encourage alarm system users to maintain proper use of alarm systems and to reduce or eliminate the frequency of false alarms.

Sec. 32-39. Definitions.

When used in this Article, the following terms have the following meanings:

- A. “*Alarm Period*” means January 1 through December 31, calendar year.
- B. “*Alarm System*” means any device designed for the detection or prevention of unauthorized entry on the premises in effort to protect private or public property, and, when actuated, emits a sound or transmits a signal or message which causes the Police department to be alerted.
- C. “*Alarm User*” means any person who installed an alarm system that uses alarm answering services to notify Police for a Police response.
- D. “*False Alarm*” means the activation of an alarm system, which summons the Police Department for a response, caused by anything other than an emergency, criminal activity, or weather. The following circumstances, however, shall not constitute a False Alarm: (1) a False Alarm where the Person that owns the property cancels the alarm prior to Police arriving; or (2) a False Alarm caused by acts of nature, climatic conditions, or alarms occurring within the first thirty (30) days of installation of a new alarm system.

Sec. 32-40. Service Charges For Excessive False Alarms.

- A. Any Alarm User who maintains or has an alarm system which signals more than two (2) False Alarms in an alarm period, shall pay a service charge to the City of Ada as outlined herein. The amount of the service charge reflects a portion of the cost of the Police Department services provided in response to the False Alarm for property protection purposes.
- B. Alarm charges shall be cumulative and due within 30 days from the date of notice by the City to the Alarm User. Failure to pay the service charge within 30 days’ notice will cause the Alarm User to be considered delinquent and subject to a penalty of 10% of the service charge.
- C. In accordance with Chapter 8, Section 8.02 of the Ada City Charter, delinquent False Alarm

service charges shall be certified by the City Administrator and assessed against the property of the delinquent Alarm User.

Sec. 32-41. Schedule of Payment Rates.

The following service charges shall apply to False Alarms under this Article in an Alarm Period:

Number of False Alarms:	Amount of Service Charge:
0-2	No Charge
3-5	\$100 per False Alarm
6-7	\$300 per False Alarm
8+	\$500 per False Alarm

Sec. 32-42. False Alarm Statement of Correction.

After each False Alarm, the Alarm User shall fill out and return within five days a written statement of the correction action(s) the Alarm User has taken to prevent additional false alarms, and the source of the False Alarm.

Sec. 32-43. Severability.

If any section or provision of this ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity will not affect other sections or provisions that can be given force and effect without the invalidated section or provision.

Sec. 32-44. Effective Date.

This ordinance becomes effective upon passage and publication.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Ada, Minnesota this [redacted] day of [redacted], 2023.

CITY OF ADA:

ATTEST:

John Hintz
Mayor

Ashley Larson
City Administrator