

ORDINANCE NO. 00-04

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A
SCHEDULE OF FINES FOR FALSE FIRE ALARMS**

WHEREAS, the Warrenville Fire Protection District is a fire protection district duly organized under the laws of the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the District has express power pursuant to 70 ILCS 705/11, to adopt and enforce fire prevention codes and standards parallel to national standards to promote fire prevention; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the District also has full power pursuant to 70 ILCS 705/11, to pass all necessary ordinances, and rules and regulations for the proper management and conduct of the business of the Board of Trustees of the District for carrying into effect the objects for which the District was formed; and

WHEREAS, a number of homes, business establishments and public buildings within the District are equipped with automatic detection devices and signaling devices that transmit alarms of signals of a fire or medical emergency to the District via DU-COMM, 911; and

WHEREAS, a variety of circumstances result in false alarms being sent to DU-COMM, 911 Dispatch, and the expenditures of substantial amounts of money for personnel and equipment sent to respond to such false alarms, and

WHEREAS, the District desires to create a schedule of fines for false alarms in order that the District may be adequately compensated for the cost of responding to false alarms and to provide incentives to building owners within the District to maintain their private fire alarm systems in good working order and repair, while penalizing those who fail to do so.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Ordained by the Board of Trustees of the Warrenville Fire Protection District as follows:

Section One: Definitions. For the purpose of this section, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section.

- A. False Alarm: An alarm signal which indicates the existence of any emergency situation when in fact, no such emergency exists, and shall include any alarm signal generated by any fire protection system by whatever means, but shall not include alarms resulting from any of the following causes:
1. Fire causing structural damage to the protected premises verified by the Fire District.
 2. Earth quake causing structural damage to the protected premises.
 3. Tornado or hurricane winds causing structural damage to the protected premises.
 4. Flooding to the protected premises due to overflow of natural drainage.
 5. Lightning causing physical damage to the protected premises.
 6. Telephone line malfunction verified to the Fire District by an authorized telephone company supervisor within seven days of the occurrence.
 7. Electrical service interruption verified to the Fire District by the local power company manager within seven days of the occurrence.
 8. Plumbing or electric malfunctions unrelated to the fire protection system.
- B. Fire Alarm User: A "fire alarm user" is defined as the owner of the property from which the false alarm originated and any individual, partnership, corporation, organization or other entity occupying or on the property with permission of the owner.

Section Two: Schedule of Fines. The schedule of fines for false fire alarms shall be as follows:

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- A. Type of False Alarms Charged: A fire alarm user shall be fined for each fire alarm is such false fire alarm is:
1. given intentionally;
 2. due to or caused by improper installation design or use of due to a lack of required maintenance;
 3. resulting from any test, repair, alteration, or addition to the fire protection system without prior notification thereof to the Warrenville Fire Protection District.

- B. Fines: A fire alarm user shall be fined for false fire alarms as follows:
1. Two false alarms in a three (3) month period: warning letter.
 2. Third false alarm in a three (3) month period: \$100 fine.
 3. Each additional false alarm in a three (3) month period after three shall result in a false fire alarm charge of \$250.
 4. If the false alarm is given intentionally, then an additional fine of \$500 shall be added to the fine listed above.
 5. After a continuous three (3) month period without incident the fine structure returns to Step B(1) above.
- C. Out of Service Alarm: If a fire alarm gives three (3) or more false fire alarms within a twenty-four (24) hour period, the Warrenville Fire Protection District reserves the right to place out-of-service the fire alarm system and may require a fire watch at its discretion. If District personnel are required to serve on fire watch, the fire alarm users must reimburse the District at the actual cost of personnel and equipment. Any fire alarm placed out-of-service under this section must be repaired and placed back in service within the time period specified by the Warrenville Fire Protection District. Once the alarm is placed back in service, the alarm system must be tested in the presence of an officer or other member of the Warrenville Fire Protection District.

Section Three: That, in addition to the fine(s) set forth in Section One, if any false alarm user refuses to pay within 60 days of notice of the fine, the user will be deemed to have further violated this ordinance and will incur an additional fine of not less than \$50, nor more than \$500 for each offense plus all legal fees and all costs caused by enforcement. Such fees and costs shall include, but not be limited to, staff costs of inspection or re-inspection, legal fees, and staff cost at enforcement. A separate offense shall be deemed committed for each day on which a violation occurs or continues.

Section Four: The failure to pay any fine which is reduced to judgment may result in a lien filed against the fire alarm user's property.

Section Five: The Warrenville Fire Protection District assumes no liability for:

1. Any defects in the operation of an alarm system.
2. For the failure or neglect to respond appropriately upon receipt of an alarm.
3. For the failure or neglect of any person in connection with the installation, operation or maintenance of any alarm system.
4. The transmission of alarm signals, pre-recorded alarm messages, or the relaying of such signals and messages.

Section Six: The Fire Chief is hereby authorized to waive any or all of the fees due under this Ordinance. He may do so by policy or on an individual basis.

Section Seven: All revenue from the charges assessed pursuant to this Ordinance shall be deposited in the general corporate fund of the Warrenville Fire Protection District.

Section Eight: Nothing in this Ordinance shall authorize the District to refuse to provide any service to any person, business or other entity that has not paid for services previously provided or that owes money for services previously rendered.

Section Nine: That this Ordinance shall supersede any ordinances or motions or parts of ordinances or motions in conflict with any part herein, and any such ordinances or motions or parts of such ordinances are hereby repealed.

Section Ten: If any section, paragraph or provisions of this Ordinance shall be held invalid or unenforceable for any reason, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

Section Eleven: That the Secretary of the Warrenville Fire Protection is hereby directed to publish this Ordinance in full at least once in a newspaper published in the District. Publication shall take place at least ten (10) days prior to implementation of

this Ordinance. That the provisions of this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect ten (10) days after publication as provided by law.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2000, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: _____

NAY: _____

ABSENT: _____

President, Board of Trustees
Warrenville Fire Protection District

ATTEST:

Secretary, Board of Trustees
Warrenville Fire Protection District