

TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT LAUREL

ORDINANCE #15-2011

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT LAUREL, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, REPEALING CHAPTER 58 "ALARM SYSTEMS" OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT LAUREL, AND REPLACING SAME WITH A NEW CHAPTER 58 "FALSE ALARMS".

WHEREAS, the Mount Laurel Township Ordinance concerning alarms systems was first adopted in 1985, over 25 years ago and is in need of revision; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has determined that registration of alarm systems in residential properties is not necessary and that registration of alarms in commercial, non-residential facilities can be replaced by a general commercial/business registration requirement by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has further determined that the penalties for false alarms should be clarified and should provide for payment through the Violations Bureau of the Municipal Court in lieu of a required court appearance; and

WHEREAS, the Township attorney has suggested that the current Chapter 58 entitled "Alarm Systems" of the Code of the Township of Mount Laurel be repealed and replaced with a new Chapter 58, entitled "False Alarms".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Mount Laurel, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, that Chapter 58 of the Code of the Township of Mount Laurel entitled "Alarm Systems" is hereby repealed and replaced by a new Chapter 58 entitled "False Alarms" as follows:

SECTION 1.

58-1. – Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to establish regulations concerning false alarms within the Township of Mount Laurel and to provide penalties for violation of any of the provisions set forth herein.

SECTION 2.

58-2. Definitions. For the purpose of this chapter, certain words and phrases are defined as follows:

ALARM SYSTEM:

Any mechanical, electrical or electronics device which is designed or used for the detection of an unauthorized entry into a building, structure or facility or for alerting others about the commission of an unlawful act within a building, structure or facility or for alerting others about the existence of any other condition requiring response of police, fire and EMS personnel and which emits and/or transmits an audible and/or visual signal or message when actuated. Alarm systems include, but are not limited to, direct-dial telephone devices, audible alarms, central station alarm, visual alarms and subscriber alarms.

AUDIBLE ALARM:

A device that emits an audible signal from the premises that it is designed to protect.

CENTRAL STATION:

A service that monitors the operation of an alarm system and relays information to the Mount Laurel Township Police Department and/or other emergency number when the system is activated.

FALSE ALARM:

An alarm signal requiring response by the Mount Laurel police, fire or emergency medical services where an emergency situation does not in fact exist. An alarm that has been activated by an external source that is beyond the reasonable control of the subscriber shall not be considered false.

POLICE:

Mount Laurel Division of Police.

TOWNSHIP:

Township of Mount Laurel.

VISUAL ALARM:

A rotating or flashing light that, when activated, is intended to alert the observer that the premises on which it is affixed has been illegally entered.

SECTION 3.

58-3. General provisions.

A. Audible alarms must be silenced within 30 minutes after a designated responsible person is notified to do so by the police, or the alarm may be equipped with a timing device that will automatically silence the audible alarm within 30 minutes after it is actuated.

B. Upon the activation of an alarm system, there shall be a mandatory delay of at least 15 seconds before the transmission of a signal to the Central Station to enable the user to abort the signal in the event that it was triggered inadvertently. This delay shall not be applicable to a robbery (holdup) or medical emergency alarm.

C. False alarms:

(1) It shall be the responsibility of all persons, entities, firms, corporations or anyone maintaining an alarm system within the Township to prevent the transmission of false alarms through a program of training and periodic inspection and maintenance of the system.

(2) The maximum permissible number of false alarms from any one location shall be three false alarms in any one calendar year. Each and any false alarm in excess of this number shall be considered a violation of this chapter, and subject to the penalties in Section 58-5 below.

SECTION 4.

58-4. Exceptions

A. The provisions of this chapter shall not apply to the general alerting alarms used by fire companies, ambulance squads or emergency management agencies to summon response of their members.

B. The provisions of the chapter shall not apply to alarm systems that are affixed to motor vehicles.

SECTION 5.

58-5. Violations and penalties.

Any person, entity, firm, corporation or other group that is found guilty of violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to a fine as follows. Each incident shall be considered as a separate violation.

(A) Any person or entity whose alarm system generates a fourth false alarm in any calendar year shall, upon issuance of a Special Complaint by the Division of Police, pay a fine of \$50.00, which, upon a guilty plea, may be paid through the Violations Bureau of the Municipal Court.

(B) Any person or entity whose alarm system generates a fifth false alarm in any calendar year shall, upon issuance of a Special Complaint by the Division of Police, pay a fine of \$150.00 which, upon a guilty plea, may be paid through the Violations Bureau of the Municipal Court.

(C) Any person or entity whose alarm system generates a sixth false alarm in any calendar year shall, upon issuance of a Special Complaint by the Division of Police, pay a fine of \$250.00, which, upon plea of "guilty", may be paid through the Violations Bureau of the Municipal Court.

(D) Any person or entity whose alarm system generates a seventh or more false alarms in a calendar year shall, upon issuance of a Special Complaint by the Division of Police, be required to appear in Municipal Court and be subject to a fine of up to \$1,000.00 for each violation.

SECTION 6.

All ordinances or parts thereof or resolutions inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency. Chapter 58 of the Code of the Township of Mount Laurel, entitled "Alarm System" is hereby repealed in its entirety, upon the passage and effective date of this amended Ordinance, Chapter 58, entitled "False Alarms".

SECTION 7.

This Ordinance shall take effect after final approval and publication according to law.

SECTION 8.

A copy of this Ordinance can be obtained at no cost in the Office of the Mount Laurel Municipal Clerk, 100 Mount Laurel Road, Mount Laurel, New Jersey, during normal business hours by any member of the general public.

Introduction Date: December 5, 2011

	MOTION	AYE	NAY	ABSTAINED	ABSENT	TRANSMITTED
D'Antonio		✓				
Smith	2	✓				
Solomon					✓	
Bobo	1	✓				
Keenan		✓				

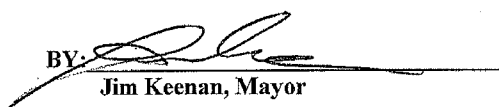
Publication Date: December 8, 2011

Public Hearing Date: December 19, 2011

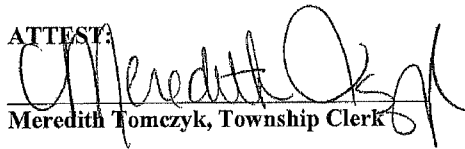
	MOTION	AYE	NAY	ABSTAINED	ABSENT	TRANSMITTED
D'Antonio					✓	Chief
Smith	2	✓				Manager
Solomon	1	✓				
Bobo		✓				
Keenan		✓				

TOWNSHIP OF MOUNT LAUREL

BY:


Jim Keenan, Mayor

ATTEST:


Meredith Tomczyk, Township Clerk

On this 19 day of December 2011 the above Ordinance is adopted.