

ORDINANCE NO. 519

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An ordinance relating to alarm systems, requiring alarm users to obtain permits, providing for issuance of permits and revocation thereof, prohibiting certain interconnections and automatic dialing practices, allocating revenues and expenses, providing for administration of the ordinance and all other matters pertaining thereto, and declaring an emergency.

THE CITY OF STAYTON ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. This ordinance shall be known as the Alarm Control Ordinance.

Section 2. The purposes of this ordinance is to protect the emergency services of the City from abuse and misuse.

Section 3. Definitions.

1. "Alarm business" means the business by any individual, partnership, corporation or other entity of selling, leasing, maintaining, servicing, repairing, altering, replacing, moving or installing any burglar, robbery or fire alarm system or causing to be sold, leased, maintained, serviced, repaired, altered, replaced, moved or installed any alarm system in or on any building, structure or facility.
2. "Alarm system" means any assembly of equipment, mechanical or electrical, arranged to signal the presence of illegal entry or activity requiring urgent attention and which is interconnected to the Emergency Communications Center.
3. "Alarm user" means the person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind in control of a premise wherein an alarm system is being maintained.
4. "Automatic dialing device" means a device which is interconnected to a regular telephone line and is programmed to select a particular phone number so that a prerecorded voice message or a code signal indicating the existence of a situation detected by an alarm system may be transmitted to the selected telephone number.
5. "False alarm" means an alarm signal necessitating response by the Police or Fire Department where an emergency situation does not exist. Alarm signals occurring due to acts of God or due to off-premise causes are not false alarms.
6. "Interconnect" means to connect an alarm system including an automatic dialing device to a telephone line either directly or through a mechanical device that utilizes a telephone for the purpose of using the telephone line to transmit a message upon the activation of the alarm system.

7. "Chief of Police" means the head of the Stayton Police Department or his designated representative.

8. "Primary trunk line" or "emergency telephone line" means a telephone line or lines serving the Emergency Communications Center that is designated by the Chief of Police to receive emergency calls.

9. "Emergency Communications Center" means the facility used to receive emergency and general information from the public by the Stayton Police and Fire Department.

#### Section 4. Alarm Users Permits Required.

1. All existing and future users of burglar, robbery, or fire alarm systems shall obtain an Alarm Users Permit from the office of the Chief of Police upon the effective date of this ordinance or pursuant to use and alarm system. Systems using robbery, burglary, or fire alarm capabilities are required to obtain a permit for each function. Application for the burglar, robbery, or fire alarm permit and a \$25.00 fee for each must be filed with the Chief of Police for each year or part thereof. All permits shall expire on the date of June 30. Each permit will bear the signature of the issuing official and the Chief of Police and shall be valid for a period not to exceed one year. The permit shall be physically upon the premises using the alarm system and there available for inspection by the Chief of Police.

2. Residential alarm users over the age of 65 and being the principal occupant of the premise wherein no business is conducted will not be required to pay the \$25.00 permit fee but will be required to obtain a permit within the 60 days after the need for such permit arises.

#### Section 5. Duties of Every Alarm Business.

1. Every alarm business selling or leasing to any user an alarm system which is installed upon a premise that is interconnected to the Emergency Communications Center shall furnish that person with instructions that provide adequate information to enable persons using such equipment to operate it properly and where to obtain service for the equipment at any time.

2. If the Chief of Police determines in his reasonable discretion that such information is incomplete, unclear or inadequate, he may require the alarm business to revise the information to meet his approval and then to distribute the revised information to alarm users.

#### Section 6. Unauthorized Automatic Dialing Devices.

1. It is unlawful for any person to program an automatic dialing device to select a primary trunk line and it is unlawful for an alarm user to fail to disconnect or reprogram an automatic dialing device which is programmed to select a primary trunk line within twenty-four hours of notice that it is so programmed.

2. Within 60 days of the effective date of this ordinance, all existing, automatic dialing devices programmed to select a primary trunk line shall be reprogrammed or disconnected if such device is located within the corporate limits of the City of Stayton.

3. It is unlawful for any person to program an automatic dialing device to select any emergency telephone line assigned to the Emergency Communications Center of the City of Stayton. It is unlawful for an alarm user to fail to disconnect or reprogram within twenty-four hours of notice of an automatic dialing device which is programmed to select an emergency telephone line assigned to the Emergency Communications Center.

#### Section 7. False Alarms.

1. Signals from an alarm system which are false alarms are hereby declared to be a public nuisance. The user may have an allowance of four false alarms occurring within a one-year period starting from the date an alarm permit is issued until it expires one year later or until June 30, whichever occurs first. The fifth false alarm within that one-year period shall be subject to a service charge of \$20.00 charged to the user of the alarm system. Any additional false alarms occurring within that same one-year period shall be subject to an additional fee of \$20.00. Payment of service charges are payable within 60 days of notification that such charges are due. Failure to pay the assessed service charge shall result in the user's permit being suspended and his alarm system immediately terminated. Determination of whether or not the alarm falls within the definition of false alarm is the sole discretion of the Chief of Police.

#### Section 8. Alarm Equipment Testing.

1. Whenever a user of an alarm system deems it necessary to test or otherwise intentionally set off or activate an alarm system located on his premises, he shall notify the Emergency Communications Center that he intends to test or otherwise intentionally activate that alarm prior to actual tests being conducted. Failure to do so will result in that user being considered as having had a false alarm.

#### Section 9. Violations and Enforcement.

1. Any person violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall upon conviction thereof in the Municipal Court be punished by a fine not to exceed \$500.00.

#### Section 10. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall go into effect on the first day of July, 1979.

PASSED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL THIS 18 DAY OF June, 1979  
SIGNED BY THE MAYOR THIS 18 DAY OF June, 1979.

Henry A. Porter  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

Elena Vandenberg  
CITY ADMINISTRATOR