

ORDINANCE NO. 2016 - 02

**AN ORDINANCE OF PENN TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY,
PENNSYLVANIA REGULATING ALARM SYSTEMS**

**BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE SUPERVISORS OF PENN
TOWNSHIP, CUMBERLAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AND IT IS HEREBY
ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE SAME AS FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS – The Ordinance shall be known and cited as the Alarm Systems Ordinance.

SECTION 2. PURPOSE – The purpose of the Ordinance is to impose administrative and criminal penalties in order to reduce false alarms originating from homes, businesses and other establishments located within Penn Township, Cumberland County.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS – The following words, terms and phrases shall have the meanings described herein ascribed thereto unless the context clearly indicated a different meaning.

ALARM YEAR – An Alarm Year is defined as the Twelve-Month (12) period prior to the most recent False Alarm for a particular property's alarm system whether Residential or Commercial in nature.

ALARM SYSTEM – Any assembly of equipment arranged to signal the occurrence of a police, fire, hazard or medical emergency requiring urgent attention and to which police, fire or emergency medical personnel are expected to respond.

FALSE ALARM

- A. An alarm activated in the absence of an emergency, whether willfully or by inadvertence, negligence or unintentional act, including the malfunction of the alarm system.
- B. Multiple alarms received by the Police, Fire Company or EMS before the system can be deactivated within a reasonable period of time. A reasonable period of time shall be considered a time period not to exceed 12 hours from the time of the first alarm.

FIRE CHIEF – The Fire Chief of the Penn Township Volunteer Fire Company, or his designee.

PERSON – Any person, group, firm, partnership, association, company, corporation or organization of any kind.

TOWNSHIP – Penn Township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania

PENN TOWNSHIP CODES ENFORCEMENT OFFICER(s) – Duly appointed personnel whose responsibility it is to enforce the ordinances and codes established by the Penn Township Board of Supervisors.

SECTION 4. INSPECTION OF DEVICES – The public safety requires that the incidence of false alarms and malfunctioning automatic detection and alarm systems be kept at a minimum to reduce unnecessary calls to Police, Fire Company and EMS personnel. Therefore, it is necessary that appropriate Fire Company and Township officials have the right to inspect the installation and operation of any system installed in the Township.

SECTION 5. STANDARDS – Every alarm system installed within the Township shall be listed by Underwriter’s Laboratories, Inc and provided with a standby battery power which shall automatically and immediately take over in the event of a power failure. The alarm system shall be equipped with a timing mechanism that will disengage the audible alarm after a maximum of 15 minutes.

SECTION 6. APPLICATION

- A. All persons or companies having or wishing to install an alarm will complete an application on a form provided by the Township.
- B. The form must be updated anytime contact information changes as well as annually, January 1.
- C. Fees for initial application:
 - 1. Private Residence No Fee
 - 2. Apartments \$25.00
 - 3. Businesses \$25.00
- D. There shall be no fee for updating existing applications.

SECTION 7. FALSE ALARMS – Any alarm system for a property which has False Alarms after receiving two (2) warnings for False Alarms will be subject to penalties as provided pursuant to Section 8.

SECTION 8. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES – The owner of any alarm system that violates any provision of this ordinance shall be subject to the following:

A. Residential Alarm Systems:

1. First two (2) False Alarms, per property	Warning
2. After warning, one (1) to three (3) False Alarms during an alarm year	\$75.00 per alarm
3. Fourth (4 th) False Alarm, per alarm year	\$100.00
4. Fifth (5 th) False Alarm, per alarm year	\$150.00
5. Six (6) or more False Alarms, per alarm year	\$200.00 per alarm

B. Commercial Alarm Systems:

1. First two (2) False Alarms, per property	Warning
2. Following warnings, one (1) to three (3) False Alarms per alarm year	\$200.00 per alarm
3. Fourth (4 th) False Alarm per alarm year	\$400.00
4. Fifth (5 th) False Alarm per alarm year	\$600.00
5. Six (6) or more False Alarms per alarm year	\$1,000.00 per alarm

- C. Penalty for installing a system without an application shall be \$50.00.
- D. Penalty for failure to update the application when contact information changes shall be \$25.00.
- E. This Ordinance shall be under the jurisdiction of Penn Township Ordinance 2014-02, the Alternative Dispute Ordinance. Any violation of the provisions of any article as enumerated in this ordinance shall be cause for a citation, and/or a notice of violation to be issued to the violator.

SECTION 9. SEVERABILITY: The provisions of this ordinance are severable, and if any section, clause, sentence, part or provision thereof shall be held illegal, invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision of the court shall no affect, impair or invalidate any of the remaining sections, clauses, sentences, parts or provisions of this ordinance. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Penn Township Board of Supervisors that this ordinance would have been adopted if such illegal, invalid or unconstitutional section, clause, sentence, part of provision had not been included herein.

The provisions of any other prior ordinance which are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency. This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

DULY ENACTED and ORDAINED THIS 5th day of January, 2015,
By the Supervisors of Penn Township in public session duly assembled



GARY MARTIN, CHAIRMAN



KENNETH SHEAFFER, VICE CHAIRMAN



AMOS SEIDERS, SUPERVISOR

ATTEST:



VICKI KNEPP, SECRETARY