

ORDINANCE 23-101

AN ORDINANCE OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING ARTICLE IV OF CHAPTER 2-21 OF THE MANATEE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES, RELATING TO ALARM SYSTEMS; MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS OF FACT; ADDING AND REDEFINING CERTAIN TERMS; PROVIDING FOR A REGISTRATION PROCESS; MODIFYING FALSE ALARM PENALTIES; REVISING THE PROCEDURE FOR APPEALS; REVISING REQUIREMENTS FOR ALARM RESPONSE; REVISING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALARM MONITORING COMPANIES AND ALARM SYSTEM CONTRACTORS; MODIFYING FEES AND FINES; PROVIDING GENERAL PENALTIES FOR CONTINUING VIOLATIONS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, in 2004, the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, (Board) adopted the Manatee County False Alarm Ordinance to reduce false alarms by mandating a balanced scheduled of escalating fines designed to both discourage repeated false alarms and help recover the high costs of false alarm dispatches; and

WHEREAS, the Manatee County Sheriff's Office has requested that the Board modify the False Alarm Ordinance in a variety of ways to better serve the citizens, including, but not limited to eliminating certain fees and improving the ability to collect delinquent fines in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that modifying the False Alarm Ordinance as detailed herein is in the best interests of the health, safety and welfare of the County, its citizens, taxpayers, and business community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County:

Section 1. The recitals set forth above are hereby adopted as findings of this Board and are incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. Amending Article IV of Chapter 2-21 of the Code, entitled "Alarm Systems. Article IV, Sections 2-21-52 through 2-21-70 of the Code are hereby amended as set forth in Exhibit A to this Ordinance.

Section 3. Codification. The publisher of the County's Code is hereby directed to codify the substantive amendments to Article IV, Sections 2-21-52 through 2-21-70, of the Code contained in Exhibit A of this Ordinance as provided herein. For purposes of codification, words underlined indicate additions to original text, and words ~~stricken~~ indicate deletions from the original text.

Section 4. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause, or other provision of this Ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not be construed as to render invalid or unconstitutional the remaining sections, sentences, clauses, or provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect on October 1, 2023, or upon filing with the Department of State, whichever occurs last.

DULY ADOPTED with a quorum present and voting this 8th day of August, 2023.



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: [Signature]
Chairperson

ATTEST: ANGELINA COLONNESO
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

By: [Signature]
Deputy Clerk

Exhibit A

Amendments to Article IV, Sections 2-21-52 through 2-21-70 Manatee County Code of Ordinances

Sec. 2-21-52. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

~~*Alarm administrator* means the sheriff's designee responsible for administering and enforcing this article.~~

Alarm monitoring company (~~*monitoring company*~~) means a person or entity performing or engaged in causing the service of monitoring as defined in Section 489.505(27), Florida Statutes, as may be amended from time to time, and having alarm customers within the territorial jurisdiction of this article.

~~*Alarm review authority* means the sheriff or his designees.~~

Alarm site ~~shall~~ means any building, structure, facility or premises, or combination or portion thereof, wherein a separate or discrete where an alarm system is used, installed, or maintained. The term does not include any building, structure, facility or premises being prewired for possible future use by subsequent owners, as long as the alarm system is not operational.

Alarm system means any device that emits, transmits or relays a signal intended to summon, or that would reasonably be expected to summon, law enforcement services to the site of the alarm system. Alarm system does not include:

- (a) A device installed on a vehicle, unless the vehicle is permanently located at the site; or
- (b) A device designed to alert only the inhabitants of the device site, and that is not audible or visible from the exterior of the structure; or
- (c) A fire alarm system ~~device designed for a purpose other than to alert for intrusion, burglary or robbery.~~

Alarm system contractor shall have the meaning set forth in Section 489.505, Florida Statutes~~means a person licensed or required to be licensed under Chapter 489, Florida Statutes, as an electrical or alarm system contractor, and having alarm customers or performing alarm-related work within the territorial jurisdiction of this article.~~

Alarm user means any person or entity that controls, occupies or owns an alarm site~~has contracted for monitoring, repair, installation or maintenance service from an alarm installation company or monitoring company for an alarm system, or that operates an alarm system which is not monitored, maintained or repaired under contract, or any person or entity in control of any building, structure, facility or premises, or portion thereof, containing an alarm system. The term includes condominium or homeowner associations, apartment buildings and other multifamily living units providing monitoring service via a master agreement to individual owners, residents, or tenants through any maintenance, rental, or other fee. The term does not include any person or entity~~homebuilders engaged in rewiring any building, structure, facility or premises~~homes or other structures for possible future use by subsequent owners, as long as the said alarm systems is~~are not operational.

AutomaticAutomated dialing device means an alarm system,~~which~~ equipped to automatically send, via telephone, radio, digital or other means of electronic or electrical communication a prerecorded voice message or other signal to the sheriff indicating the existence of an emergency situation.

Bona fide incident means any criminal activity, attempted criminal activity, unauthorized entry, attempted unauthorized entry, or medical emergency.

Commercial premises means any structure or area, which is not defined in this section as governmental or residential premises, included but not limited to, religious and not for profit organizations, hotels, motels and educational institutions.

Deactivated alarm means an alarm system that has the primary and secondary power and the telephone line disconnected at the alarm control panel.

False alarm means the activation of an alarm system for any reason other than a bona fide incident,~~such as a burglary or unauthorized entry,~~ and a subsequent response by the sheriff to ~~or towards~~ that alarm site. A false alarm does not include:

- (a) An alarm system activation caused by physical damage to the alarm system as a result of lightning, wind, or other meteorological event, where there is clear evidence of physical damage to the alarm system; or

(b) An alarm system activation caused by disconnection of a telephone circuit beyond the control of the alarm user or his agents, verified by written communication from the telephone company; or

(c) An alarm system activation caused by continuous electrical power disruption in excess of four (4) hours; or

(d) An alarm system activation caused by a first responder while performing in the course and scope of his or her official duties.

Fine means an administrative penalty and fee ~~for services imposed~~ due to failure to comply with the provisions of this article.

Fined party means the person or entity that has been assessed a fine by the sheriff for any violation of this article.

Fire alarm system means any system of electrical devices, signaling devices, or combination thereof, which is designed and installed for the purpose of warning building occupants or fire/emergency services organizations of a fire or by-products of fire.

First responder means a law enforcement officer as defined in Section 943.10, Florida Statutes, a firefighter as defined in Section 633.102, Florida Statutes, or an emergency medical technician or paramedic as defined in Section 401.23, Florida Statutes, who is employed by the state or a local government.

~~*Governmental premises* mean a structure or area owned and/or operated by a government entity.~~

MCSO means the Manatee County Sheriff's Office.

Registered alarm user means an alarm user who is registered with the sheriff or is required to be registered with the sheriff in accordance with this article.

~~*Registration Permit year* means thea period of twelve (12) consecutive calendar months, starting from the date of the required first issuance of an alarm user permit, an alarm system contractor registration, or an alarm monitoring company registration, and ending twelve (12) months from said date of issuance.~~

~~*Residential premises* means any structure serving as a home, residence, or sleeping place by one person or by two (2) or more persons who maintain a common household.~~

Sheriff means the Manatee County Sheriff, a deputy sheriff designated by the Manatee County Sheriff, or any other designee of the Manatee County Sheriff ~~or his designee.~~

~~Sheriff's office means the designated authority charged with administration and enforcement of the Manatee County False Alarm Ordinance.~~

~~Verification means an attempt by the monitoring company, or its representative, to contact the alarm site and/or alarm user by telephone and/or other electronic means, whether or not actual contact with a person is made, to determine whether an alarm signal is valid before requesting law enforcement dispatch. Verification shall require, at a minimum, that a second call be made to a different telephone, cell phone, pager, or other communication device provided by the alarm user if the first attempt fails to reach an alarm user who can properly identify him or herself.~~

Sec. 2-21-53. Territorial jurisdiction.

This article shall apply throughout the unincorporated area of Manatee County and any other area of said county where there exists county government facilities and the Manatee County Sheriff's Office responds to ~~burglary, robbery, panic, duress or holdup~~ alarms system activations as the primary law enforcement agency.

Sec. 2-21-54. Alarm registration ~~permit and fee.~~

(a) ~~The sheriff is authorized to develop and implement a process and procedure to automatically register alarm users and alarm sites and request relevant information from alarm users upon the occurrence of a false alarm to enforce this article. Registration of an alarm user will occur only when the sheriff determines that a false alarm has occurred at an alarm site controlled, occupied, or owned by the alarm user. An alarm user's first registration year shall commence on the date of that alarm user's first false alarm as determined by the sheriff. Each subsequent registration year shall begin on the applicable anniversary date of the first false alarm for that alarm user. No fee shall be charged for the registration of an alarm user or an alarm site. An alarm user shall not be required to register with the sheriff for an alarm permit, nor pay a false alarm fine, until the alarm user has had more than two (2) false alarms as designated by the sheriff at a given alarm site. Upon the occurrence of a third false alarm, the alarm user shall be required to immediately register the alarm user's alarm system with the Sheriff, provide certain information, pay a nonrefundable registration fee, and pay a fine for the false alarm as provided below.~~

(b) ~~Every such alarm user shall also be required to renew annually a nontransferable alarm permit so long as an alarm system is in use at that site. The permit shall cover one individual alarm site and be valid for one permit year and then expire.~~

~~(c) — The fee for an initial or renewal annual alarm permit on residential, commercial or governmental premises shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00), which shall accompany each application. However, should a validly permitted alarm site have incurred no false alarms in the previous permit year, then the renewal fee for that site shall be only five dollars (\$5.00).~~

~~(d) — For purposes of registration, a system shall be associated with the individual residential, governmental or commercial unit or units being monitored, so that if individual units are monitored independently of each other, the system for each unit shall be registered when required by this article.~~

~~(b)(e)~~ The owner or manager of any residential or commercial premises that are rented to others and which have alarm systems provided by the owner or manager shall:

- (1) Explain the operation of the alarm system to the tenant alarm user;
- (2) Explain the tenant alarm user's financial responsibility to the landlord, if any, for false alarms; and
- (3) Obtain the tenant alarm user's written acknowledgment of receipt and understanding of the information provided in subsections (1) and (2) above; ~~and~~

~~(c)(f)~~ On each registration application, the alarm user shall provide the following information:

- (1) The alarm user's name, current physical address (to include any forwarding addresses necessary to receive correspondence); home telephone number, work telephone number, cellular telephone number, and/or pager number, all if existing.
- (2) The address of the alarm site;
- ~~(3) — The classification of the alarm site as residential, commercial governmental, or apartment complex;~~
- ~~(4) — The type of alarm system, such as burglary, robbery, or intrusion;~~
- ~~(3)(5)~~ The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of two persons who have access to the alarmed premises, the ability to reset the alarm, and who, upon request of the sheriff, will respond to the alarm site within thirty (30) minutes of notification (key holders);
- ~~(4)(6)~~ The name, address, telephone number, and state license number of the alarm monitoring company;

~~(5)~~(7) The name, address, telephone number, and state license number of the installer and date of installation;

~~(6)~~(8) The name, address and telephone number and state license number of the commercial entity that last performed maintenance on the alarm system;

~~(7)~~(9) Any dangerous or special conditions present at the alarm site; and

~~(8)~~(10) Any other information as required by the sheriff.

~~(g) The sheriff shall not issue or renew any alarm permit to a person when that person owes any fine or fee under this article which is delinquent for more than thirty (30) days, when a reason for a previous revocation has not been corrected, or if the applicant has provided false information. Users of multiple alarm systems, such as multi-unit landlords, must be in compliance with each property or unit owned.~~

~~(d)(h) An alarm user shall submit interim updated registration application information within fifteen (15) days of the change of any of the forgoing information. A permit may be revoked if it is found to contain inaccuracies. The intentional provision of false information in any registration submission under this article constitutes a violation thereof, and may result in criminal prosecution.~~

~~(e)(i) Registration may be in writing, on line on the Internet, or by any other method prescribed by the sheriff. Information contained in registration permit applications is confidential and exempt from disclosure in accordance with Section 281.301, Florida Statutes.~~

~~(f) No alarm user shall knowingly and willfully refuse to supply the sheriff with the registration information required under this section.~~

~~(g) No alarm user shall knowingly and willfully provide the sheriff with misleading, false, or inaccurate registration information under this section.~~

Sec. 2-21-55. False alarm responsibility and penalties.

~~(a) The Responsibility for false alarms shall be borne by the alarm user. When an alarm site has as its alarm user both a landlord and a tenant, responsibility for a false alarm shall be borne by the tenant under all circumstances except if the false alarm was caused by an alarm system error, in which case responsibility for a false alarm shall be borne by the landlord. It shall not be a defense to this article that a false alarm was the result of faulty or malfunctioning equipment, any animal, any object under the control of the alarm user, or that the false alarm was caused by the fault of another person during a noncriminal event.~~

~~(b) After the alarm user has had two (2) false alarms as mentioned in section 2-21-54(a) and (b), above, and is under an obligation to register and obtain a permit, the following fine schedule shall apply for each subsequent false alarm:~~

~~(1) ThirdFirst and fourthsecond false alarms within a registrationpermit year: Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) each;~~

~~(2) FifthThird and sixthfourth false alarms within a registrationpermit year: Fifty dollars (\$50.00) each;~~

~~(3) SeventhFifth and eighthsixth false alarms within a registrationpermit year: One hundred dollars (\$100.00) each;~~

~~(4) NinthSeventh and tentheighth false alarms within a registrationpermit year: Two hundred dollars (\$200.00) each;~~

~~(5) EleventhNinth and moreabove false alarms within a registrationpermit year: Four hundred dollars (\$400.00) each;~~

~~(6) — In the alarm user's second and subsequent permit years the fine schedule shall start from the fine for a first false alarm.~~

~~(7) — An additional fine for any false alarms from an alarm system required by this article to be registered and not so registered or from an alarm system with a revoked permit, is two hundred dollars (\$200.00) per occurrence. The sheriff shall reduce this additional fine to fifty dollars (\$50.00) if the alarm user applies for and obtains an alarm permit and pays any outstanding fines within fifteen (15) days of the false alarm.~~

~~(c) The sheriff may offer an alarm awareness class to alarm users. Alarm users may attend the class in lieu of paying one false alarm fine per permit year. Within ten (10) working days of a false alarm, MCSO shall impose the appropriate fine in accordance with this section by sending a bill or invoice to the alarm user, by regular U.S. Mail.~~

~~(d) Within ten (10) working days of a false alarm, MCSO shall bill the alarm user, by regular U.S. Mail, the amount of the fee and/or fine. False alarm fines are payable in full no later than thirty (30) days after the date on the bill or invoice. Fines as provided herein are not the exclusive means of enforcement of this article and the sheriff is authorized to invoke any statutory remedy pertaining to the enforcement of ordinances as exist in Florida law, including the filing of civil or criminal court actions.~~

~~(e) — False alarm fines are payable in full no later than thirty (30) days after the billing date. Fines as provided herein are not the exclusive means of enforcement of this article and the sheriff is authorized to invoke any statutory remedy pertaining to the enforcement of ordinances as exist in Florida law, including the filing of civil or criminal court actions.~~

Sec. 2-21-56. ReservedRevocation and reinstatement of alarm permit.

~~(a) — The sheriff may revoke or refuse to renew an alarm permit if it is determined that ten (10) or more false alarms have been received by the sheriff from the alarm site within a permit year.~~

~~(b) — An alarm user whose alarm permit has been revoked may be issued a new permit if that alarm user:~~

~~(1) — Pays all fees and fines owing under this article; and~~

~~(2) — Submits a new alarm permit application and pays an additional fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00); and~~

~~(3) — Has taken action to remedy the causes of the false alarms and documents that action to the satisfaction of the sheriff.~~

~~(c) — The sheriff shall notify both the alarm user and the monitoring company, if known, of the revocation or reinstatement of a permit. The monitoring company shall not, after such notification, convey alarm calls or notifications from the nonpermitted site to the sheriff, until being notified by the Sheriff of a reinstatement. A monitoring company violating this paragraph is subject to a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). This paragraph applies to monitoring agreements entered into or renewed on or after the effective date of this article.~~

Sec. 2-21-57. Appeals and failure to pay assessed fineof fines and revocations.

~~(a) The alarm user, alarm system contractor, or alarm monitoring company may appeal an assessment of a fine, or in the case of an alarm user, the revocation of an alarm permit against such user to the sheriffalarm administrator. The appeal must set forth in writing the reasons why the fine or revocation should be reversed within ten (10) days after receipt of the notice of fine or revocation and shall be accompanied by an appeal fee of twenty five dollars (\$25.00), which shall be refunded if the alarm user prevails. The proper filing of the appeal shall stay the imposition of the fine or permit revocation until an adjudication of the appeal by the sheriffAlarm Review Authority (ARA).~~

(b) The sheriff shall conduct a hearing at a time and place as designated by the sheriff and consider evidence presented by the alarm user and by other interested persons, and shall make a decision based on the preponderance of the evidence standard. The person or entity appealing shall have the burden of proof. The decision of the sheriff is the final administrative remedy.

(c) Where the fined party fails to request an appeal under this section or fails to pay the fine within 30 days of the billing date, the sheriff will notify that fined party of their right to appear at a hearing to show cause why the fine should not be assessed. Such hearing shall be conducted before a hearing officer who will make a written determination as to whether a violation occurred. If the hearing officer determines that the violation occurred, the sheriff will assess the appropriate fine to the fined party in accordance with this article.

(d) Where the fined party requests an appeal under this section and the fine assessed is upheld, the fined party shall pay the fine within 30 days of the conclusion of the appeal process. Where the fined party fails to pay the fine within 30 days of the conclusion of the appeal process, the sheriff will notify the fined party of their right to appear at a hearing to show cause why the fine should not be assessed. Such hearing shall be conducted before a hearing officer who will make a written determination as to whether a violation occurred. If the hearing officer determines that the violation occurred, the sheriff will assess the appropriate fine to the fined party in accordance with this article.

Sec. 2-21-58. Response to alarm.

The alarm user or a responder designated to the monitoring company by the alarm user or listed on the alarm registration shall respond to the alarm site within thirty (30) minutes from the time of notification by the Sheriff of the activation of the alarm, whether false or not. ~~The failure to respond, when directed by the Sheriff, shall be deemed a violation by the alarm user, and a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall be assessed.~~

[...]

Sec. 2-21-60. Alarm monitoring companies.

(a) All alarm monitoring companies shall, within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this article or the commencement of serving alarm customers in Manatee County, register with the sheriff and annually renew said registration. At the time of registration, renewal, or within ten (10) business days from a request by the sheriff, the alarm monitoring company shall, in a form and manner to be determined by the sheriff, provide the following information:

(1) Its name, telephone number, street address, and current mailing address (to include any forwarding addresses necessary to receive correspondence); and

(2) The name, current physical address (to include any forwarding addresses necessary to receive correspondence), home telephone number, work telephone number, and cellular telephone number, ~~and/or pager number~~, all if available, of the alarm users currently served within the territorial jurisdiction of this article; the address(es) and telephone number(s) of the alarmed premises (if different), and the names and telephone numbers of those persons the alarm users have designated as key holders; and

(3) The procedure it uses to verify the legitimacy of an alarm prior to notification of the Sheriff; and

(4) The name, street address and telephone number of its qualifying agent or agents, along with a copy of the qualifying agent(s) current license.

~~(b) — A fine of one hundred twenty five dollars (\$125.00) shall be assessed for the failure to register, reregister, or provide any information as required herein. Thereafter, a fine of one hundred twenty five dollars (\$125.00) shall be assessed for each additional month of noncompliance.~~

~~(b)(e)~~ Upon registration, the sheriff shall provide the monitoring company with a nonpublic telephone number for alarm notification reporting.

~~(c)(d)~~ Monitoring companies shall maintain, for a period of at least twelve (12) months, records relating to alarm notification and shall provide such records to the sheriff upon request, or a fine of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) shall be assessed.

~~(d)(e)~~ Monitoring companies shall ensure that their database of contracted alarm users reflect current, accurate names, street addresses, telephone numbers and operational status of all of its alarm users. If an alarm systems contractor provides notice of disconnection to a monitoring company, the monitoring company shall modify its database within five (5) calendar days. The monitoring company shall be fined one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) if it sends an alarm call to the MCSO after a disconnection notice is received.

Sec. 2-21-61. Alarm verification calls required.

All ~~burglary or intrusion~~-alarm systems that have central monitoring shall have one or more central monitoring verification calls made by the monitoring company to the alarm site prior to alarm monitor personnel contacting a law enforcement agency for alarm dispatch as per an "Enhanced Telephone Verification of ~~Burglar~~-Alarm Signals Standard," which shall be promulgated and published by the sheriff, and amended from time to time. However, if the ~~intrusion/burglary~~-alarms have properly operating visual or auditory sensors that enable the alarm monitoring company to verify the alarm signal, verification calling is not required. Failure to make the required verification calls shall result in a fine of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) per incident.

Sec. 2-21-62. Alarm system contractors.

(a) All alarm system contractors shall, within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this article or the commencement of serving alarm customers in Manatee County, register with the sheriff and annually renew said registration. At the time of registration, renewal, or within ten (10) business days from a request by the sheriff, the alarm system contractor shall, in a form and manner to be determined by the sheriff, provide the following information:

(1) Its name, telephone number, street address, and current mailing address to include any forwarding addresses necessary to receive correspondence;

(2) The name, current physical address (to include any forwarding addresses necessary to receive correspondence), home telephone number, work telephone number, cellular telephone number, and/or pager number, all if available, of the alarm users currently served within the territorial jurisdiction of this article; the address(es) and telephone number(s) of the alarmed premises (if different), and the names and telephone numbers of those persons the alarm users have designated as key holders; and

(3) The name, street address and telephone number of its qualifying agent or agents, along with a copy of the qualifying agent(s) current license.

~~(4)~~—A fine of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) shall be assessed for the failure to register, re-register, or provide any information as required herein. Thereafter, a fine of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) shall be assessed for each additional month of noncompliance.

(b) No person shall install, maintain, repair, alter, service or monitor alarm systems for compensation without being a licensed alarm system contractor or a fine of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) shall be assessed.

(c) All alarm system contractors shall insure that each of their agents is in compliance with Section 489.518, Florida Statutes.

(d) Alarm system contractors shall not install alarm systems or alarm equipment or use methods of installation that do not meet or exceed minimum Underwriters Laboratories or American National Standards Institute requirements for the appropriate installation and which do not use control panels tested for conformance to the Security Industry Association's (SIA) Control Panel Standard ANSI/SIA CP-01-2000 (or equivalent listing), or a fine of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) shall be assessed.

(e) Alarm system contractors shall not cause a false alarm during servicing, repairing, testing or inspection of an alarm system, or a fine of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) shall be assessed. The alarm user shall not be charged with such false alarms.

(f) Alarm system contractors shall not activate or service an unregistered ~~unpermitted~~ alarm system required by this article to be registered ~~permitted~~, or a fine of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) shall be assessed.

~~(g) Alarm system contractors shall provide all alarm users with a blank MCSO alarm permit application, whenever installing, maintaining, repairing, altering or servicing an alarm system, unless the alarm system contractor reasonably believes that the system is permitted or not required to be permitted, or a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall be assessed.~~

[...]

Sec. 2-21-67. Administration and enforcement.

(a) The sheriff or designee shall be responsible for administration and enforcement of this article, and shall have the ability to bring any actions authorized by statute or ordinance, both criminal and civil, as the sheriff may deem appropriate to achieve enforcement.

(b) The sheriff or designee has authority to compromise assessments of ~~fees or fines~~ issued pursuant to this article, as well as any judgments entered by any court concerning enforcement of this article.

(c) The sheriff or designee may use any legal means to collect unpaid ~~fees,~~ fines, liens, or judgments resulting from enforcement of this article.

Sec. 2-21-68. Imposition and Disposition of fees and fines.

Except when an appeal is filed as provided in this article, all fines imposed pursuant to this article are due within thirty (30) days of the billing date. Fees and fines collected by the sheriff pursuant to this article shall be deposited by the sheriff into a special revenue fund to be used for the administration of this article, or for other law enforcement purposes, which include defraying the cost of protracted or complex investigations, providing additional equipment or expertise and providing matching funds to obtain federal grants related to this article.

Sec. 2-21-69. Periodic review of fee/fine structure.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, the sheriff shall conduct a periodic review, no less than once every other year, of the fee and fine amounts set forth herein, to determine whether the amounts are reasonably related to its administration and effectiveness. The sheriff shall forward any recommended changes in the fine fee structure to the county commission for consideration.

Sec. 2-21-70. ReservedGeneral penalty; continuing violations.

(a) As used in this section, "violation of this article" means:

(1) Doing an act that is prohibited or made or declared unlawful; or

(2) Failure to perform an act that is required.

(b) As used in this section, "violation of this article" does not include the failure of a county officer, county employee or first responder to perform an official duty unless it is provided that failure to perform the duty is to be punished as provided in this article.

(c) Except as otherwise provided by law or ordinance, a person convicted of a violation of this article shall be punished by a fine not to exceed \$500.00. With respect to violations of this article that are continuous with respect to time, each day the violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

(d) The imposition of a penalty does not prevent the imposition of civil fines or other administrative actions, including action pursuant to Chapter 162, Florida Statutes, nor does it preclude other civil judicial remedies.

(e) MCSO is authorized and empowered to institute legal proceedings in the circuit court of the county for the purpose of obtaining injunctive relief and other relief as may be proper under the law against violators of this article. The remedy is in addition to all other remedies. The imposition of a penalty does not prevent equitable relief.