

**ORDINANCE NO. 468**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1-712(2) OF ARTICLE 7 OF CHAPTER 1 OF THE CITY OF WATFORD CITY ORDINANCES RELATING TO FALSE ALARMS**

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Watford City, North Dakota:

**A. Automatic dialing alarms.**

1. No person shall use an automatic dialing alarm unless the alarm is so designed and constructed that it automatically breaks the telephone connection which it establishes with a city incoming telephone line within three (3) minutes of establishing such connection.
2. No person shall program or permit an automatic dialing alarm to be programmed so as to call the "911" emergency telephone number.

**B. False alarms.**

1. No person shall knowingly activate any alarm for the purpose of summoning public emergency response personnel to the premises protected by the alarm unless, under an objective good faith standard, he reasonably believes that under the circumstances then known to him, it is appropriate to summon public emergency response personnel.
2. If a remote alarm has been designated by agreement between the city police force and the remote alarm owner to be used only to indicate the occurrence of a particular crime or particular type of crime, no person with prior knowledge of the agreement shall knowingly activate the alarm for the purpose of summoning police to the premises protected by the alarm unless, under an objective good faith standard, he reasonably believes the particular crime or type of crime is being committed. For example, a "panic button" intended to signal the on-going commission of an armed robbery shall not be used to signal the commission of an act of shoplifting.
3. If a remote alarm has been established for any other purpose, including fire, the owner of the alarm system shall be responsible to make sure that it is working properly so that no false alarms are reported.
4. An administrative penalty shall be assessed against the owner of any alarm system who intentionally or negligently allows false alarms. The penalty shall be in the amount as follows:

Residential (single-family and two-family dwellings):

First Offence: Warning

Second and Succeeding Offenses: \$50

Commercial (including multiple-family dwellings):

First Offense: Warning

Second Offense: \$150  
Third Offense: \$500  
Fourth Offense: \$1,000  
Fifth and Succeeding Offenses: \$5,000

After the Third Offense, that individual or business must have its alarm system inspected by the system provider, and provide a plan to the police department as to how reduce or eliminate false alarms. The number of offenses shall reset January 1 of each year. Failure to pay the penalty within 10 days of the notification of violation will result in a separate infraction with a fine of up to \$500 for each day after 10 days with no payment. The police chief may direct that anyone with five or more false alarms within a year have the system disconnected. All administrative fees shall be divided so that the Watford City Fire Department receives 80%, and the general fund of the City receives 20%.

Gravos moved the adoption of the foregoing Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Riely. On roll call vote of the Council members, the following Council members voted "AYE": Sanford, Liebel, Riely, Devlin, and Gravos, and the following Council members voted "NAY": None. Absent and not voting: Beard.

WHEREUPON, the motion was passed and the Ordinance declared adopted this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2018.

  
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Mayor Justin Voll  
City of Watford City

ATTEST:

  
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Peni Peterson, City Auditor

First Reading: 12/04/2017  
Second Reading: 01/02/2018  
Published: n/a