

Town of Freeport

CHAPTER 14 ALARM SYSTEMS ORDINANCE

ARTICLE I TITLE, PURPOSE AND DEFINITIONS

Section 14-101 Purpose

The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish appropriate guidelines for the installation of alarm systems for notification of the Town of Freeport's Police and Fire Departments.

Section 14-102 Definitions

For purposes of this Ordinance, certain terms or words used herein shall be interpreted or defined as follows:

1. Alarm System. A system including any mechanism, equipment or device designed to automatically transmit a signal, message or warning from a private premises, including telephonic alarms systems designed to operate automatically through the use of public telephone facilities to the Town of Freeport Public Safety Communications Center; or monitored by other private or public agencies which, in turn transmit a signal to the Town of Freeport Public Safety Communications Center.

ARTICLE II PERMITS

Section 14-201 No person or business shall operate or maintain an alarm system which by any method transmits a signal, message or warning to the Police or Fire Departments without first filing an application.

Section 14-202 Application for permits to install, maintain or operate an alarm system shall be filed with the Chief of each concerned department, or the Chief's designee, on forms supplied by the Town. Said application shall set forth the name, address and telephone number of both the installer of the systems and the person or business on whose premises the system will be installed, as well as a description of the system and the location where it is proposed to be installed. Installers are responsible for submission of said application and fee. The application fee for residences, which could include both fire and burglar service, is fifty-five dollars (\$55.00). The application fee for non-residential services, which includes fire service only or fire and burglar, is five-hundred (\$500.00). The fee for a non-residential burglar service only would be \$55.00. The fee for annually monitoring a Municipal Fire Alarm System, non-residential only, which may include burglar alarm monitoring, is two-hundred and seventy five dollars (\$275.00). The fee for annually monitoring a residential alarm system or non-residential

burglar alarm only is thirty-five dollars (\$35.00). Installations or monitoring will not be permitted until the application has been filed with the Town of Freeport and the application fee has been paid in full. Annual monitoring fees shall be paid on or before July 1 of each year.

Section 14-203 The Chief of the concerned department shall approve such application if the Chief finds that:

1. The use of said alarm system to transmit a signal, message or warning to a designated Town Police Department or Fire Department will not interfere with the orderly conduct of Town business;
2. The entity installing the system maintains an adequate service organization to repair, maintain or otherwise service alarm systems sold or leased by the entity. Any leased monitoring company shall be UL listed and meet N.F.P.A. Coded 71 standards or will be connected to municipal fire alarm.
3. The Police Chief or Fire Chief may impose other reasonable conditions on the exercise of said permits. The Town Manager shall retain final authority to approve the reasonableness of any other conditions.
4. The Chief of the concerned department shall have the sole right to inspect or cause to be inspected by the system installer any alarm system on premises where it is intended to function prior to issuance of any permit for operation of such a system, and he may inspect or cause an inspection by the system installer or by a qualified individual in alarm systems installation of such system to be made at any time after the issuance of a permit to determine whether it is being used in conformity with the terms of the permit and the provisions of this Ordinance. Information related to any alarm system shall be maintained in a confidential manner and the release of such information by any member of a concerned department shall be a violation of this Ordinance.
5. No person shall install, operate or maintain a telephonic alarm system which automatically transmits a signal, message or warning to the Town's Police or Fire Department's telephone lines, except to such telephone number or numbers as designated by the permit issued under the provisions of this Ordinance.
6. The Chief of the concerned department may revoke any permit issued pursuant to the provisions of this Ordinance, after giving written notice to the permit holder and an opportunity for the permit holder to be heard, if he determines that the alarm system installed pursuant to said permit has been installed, maintained or operated in violation of the provisions of this Ordinance, or of any term or condition of said permit, or for failure to pay any fee specified in Article III
7. A. Any residential construction in units with one (1) bedroom on one (1) floor will require a smoke detector to be located in hall adjacent to bedroom or sleeping quarters and one (1) in

basement or cellar. Detectors will be wired together so one (1) detector, when activated, will sound the other. The detectors will be hard wired 120V AC.

B. In units with more than one (1) sleeping area, smoke detectors will be installed to protect each bedroom and one (1) in basement or cellar. Detectors will be wired together so one (1) detector, when activated, will sound the other. The detectors will be hard wired 120V AC.

C. In units two (2) stories above ground level, detectors will be located in sleeping area or adjacent hallway on ground floor and in cellar or basement. Detectors will be wired together so one (1) detector, when activated, will sound the other. The detectors will be hard wired 120V AC.

ARTICLE III TRANSMITTAL OF NON-EMERGENCY ALARMS

Section 14-301 Any permit holder whose system causes the transmittal of a non-emergency police alarm more than two (2) times per calendar year shall pay a fee based upon the following scale:

- 3rd Alarm, \$30.00
- 4th Alarm, \$55.00
- 5th - 9th Alarm, \$100.00
- 10th + Alarm, \$150.00

In the case of the Fire Department, the fee shall be two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for each instance of a non-emergency alarm in excess of three (3) such alarms per year. Non-emergency alarms shall include, but shall not be limited to, malfunctioning equipment, or improperly monitored equipment such as to cause false alarms.

ARTICLE IV PENALTY

Section 14-401 Whoever violates any of the provisions of this Ordinance commits a civil violation and shall pay a civil penalty of not more than two hundred dollars (\$200.00), plus costs and attorney's fees.

ARTICLE V SAVINGS CLAUSE

Section 14-501 The invalidity of any provisions of this Ordinance shall not affect the validity of any other provision.

Section 14-502 All fees associated with this Ordinance will be deposited in a reserve account established by the Town and will be used for maintenance and expansion of the Town of Freeport Alarm System.

ARTICLE VI EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 14-601

Updated with amendments April 1990, July, 2002, April 2005 July 1, 2008, and May 17, 2012.