

LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2022

Relating to fire alarm systems in the Village of Waterville

1. Purpose.

It is the purpose of this Local Law to protect and promote the public health, safety and general welfare by eliminating avoidable false fire alarms and thereby ensuring that fire personnel will be available for actual emergencies. False alarms unnecessarily drain resources and require emergency responses which contribute to increased accident rates and which delay responses to real emergencies.

2. Applicability.

This article applies to all installed fire alarms which are directly connected to a fire agency or to a private agency which, in turn, makes a connection to fire agency or to no agency but merely sounds an alarm on the premises, each installed alarm having the purpose of notifying fire agencies or others that an emergency exists at the site of such installed alarm requiring an immediate response from fire agencies.

3. Definitions.

As used in this chapter the following terms shall have the following meanings:

FALSE ALARM

Any alarm reported or received by a local police or fire agency from an installed alarm which is caused by improper installation of the system, by a mechanical failure or malfunction of the system or is due to negligence on the part of the owner, user, custodian or other person responsible for the installed alarm. A false alarm does not include an alarm activated by a natural phenomenon, such as a tornado, earthquake, or the like, or by acts of third parties which are beyond control of the person responsible for the installed alarm.

INSTALLED ALARM

Any mechanical or electrical device installed in a building or on premises for the purpose of automatically notifying, directly or indirectly, fire agencies or sounding an alarm when a fire occurs and used for the purpose of summoning help from fire agencies.

4. Permits and Fees

A. Effective immediately, a permit is required for the installation and/or operation of any installed alarm which serves to alert, either directly or indirectly, the Fire Department. Permits for those installed alarms which are now in operation must be obtained within 90 days of the effective date of this chapter.

B. There will be no cost to the applicant for a permit. Permits will be issued by the Village Clerk upon completion of an application providing the following information:

- (1) Date of application.
- (2) Type of alarm
- (3) Name, address and telephone number of the person responsible for the alarm.
- (4) Address and extent of premises protected by the alarm.
- (5) Location of the alarm device annunciator panel(s).
- (6) Offices or agencies notified by the alarm.
- (7) Names, addresses and telephone numbers of persons to be contacted in the event of an alarm, any time of the day or night, and who will respond to the alarm and are authorized by the alarm user to enter the premises.
- (8) Other information required by the Clerk.

C. Applications received by the Village Clerk shall be deemed confidential and shall not be disclosed, except as provided by law.

5. False alarms prohibited; penalties for offenses.

A. Any person who violates this Local Law relating to the failure to obtain a permit for the installation and/or operation of an installed alarm shall be deemed guilty of a violation and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a fine of \$100.00 hereafter. Each day's continued violation shall constitute a separate violation.

B. The property owner or lessee of property to which an emergency agency responds as a result of false alarm shall be deemed guilty of a violation and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a fine based upon the number of offenses occurring within 12 months from the first offense as follows:

- (1) First offense: Written Warning.
- (2) Second offense: \$100
- (3) Third offense: \$250
- (4) Fourth offense: \$500
- (5) Fifth and each subsequent offense: \$1,000

C. The intentional transmission of a false alarm shall further be punishable under the provisions of the Penal Law of the State of New York.

D. In the event that no person responds on behalf of the owner of premises before the fire department leaves the premises the owner shall be deemed guilty of a violation and, upon conviction, shall be punishable by a fine of \$100.00.

6. This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.