



SANDY SPRINGS

GEORGIA

TO: Peggy Merriss, City Manager
FROM: Dan Lee, City Attorney
DATE: October 31, 2019 for Submission onto the Regular Agenda of the November 5, 2019 City Council Regular Meeting
ITEM: An Ordinance to amend Chapter 18 (Emergency Management and Emergency Services) of the Code of Ordinances (“Code”) of the City of Sandy Springs, Georgia (“City”) by amending the definition of “verify” to remove obsolete language and clarify enforcement provisions relating to false verification of an intrusion alarm.
ITEM: A Resolution establishing fees for falsely verifying an intrusion alarm in violation of Chapter 18 (Emergency Management and Emergency Services) of the Code.

BACKGROUND

In 2013, the City implemented its first false alarm ordinance with the intent of reducing the number of requests for public safety response that ultimately turn out to be false alarms. The City has since implemented a series of changes to the ordinance, including as of this past June, requiring full, confirmed verified response of an actual or attempted crime or other emergency situation through audio, video, or in-person verification in response to an activated intrusion alarm. The ordinance provides that such verification be provided to the City no more than twenty-four (24) hours after the request for and dispatch of emergency services. However, some alarm companies have claimed to have evidence of verification but have failed to provide it to the City. Thus far in these cases, the alarms have proved to be false.

DISCUSSION

In order to address an alarm company’s failure to provide its claimed verification of an intrusion alarm, there are two items before the City Council. The first is an ordinance that clarifies that the definition of false verification includes the failure to provide video or audio verification within 24 hours of a request for dispatch as required in the definition of “verify”. This ordinance also removes obsolete language from the definition of “verify” relating to sunset provisions that have passed. The second item is a resolution establishing fees for false verification of an intrusion alarm in the amounts of \$250 (first offense), \$500 (second offense) and \$1000 (third and each subsequent offense).

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the approval of the ordinance to amend the Alarm Ordinance and the resolution to establish fines for violations of the Alarm Ordinance.

ATTACHMENTS

Ordinance
Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-11-XX

**STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY FULTON**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FEES FOR VIOLATIONS OF CHAPTER 18,
“EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICES,” ARTICLE II,
“ALARM SYSTEMS,” AS PROVIDED FOR BY SEC. 18-41(d), “ENFORCEMENT OF
PROVISIONS,” OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SANDY SPRINGS**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 18, Article II, Sec. 18-34, et seq. (“Ordinance”) of the Code of Ordinances (“Code”) of the City of Sandy Springs, Georgia (“City”), provides that violations of the Ordinance shall be enforced through the assessment of civil penalties in amounts to be established by resolution of City Council; and

WHEREAS, it is important to enforce the Ordinance through civil penalties in order to recoup the costs to the City for emergency response to false alarms that could have been prevented.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANDY SPRINGS, GEORGIA, AND IT IS RESOLVED BY THE AUTHORITY OF SAID CITY COUNCIL AS FOLLOWS:

The City of Sandy Springs Mayor and City Council hereby authorize the imposition of the following fees in connection with false verification provided for in Sec. 18-41 of the Code.

- 1. Penalties for violations of other provisions of the Ordinance pursuant to Sec. 18-41(d), “Enforcement of Provisions”:
 - a) Falsely verifying an intrusion alarm under Section 18-41(a)(2)
 - (i) First Offense \$250 per occurrence
 - (ii) Second Offense \$500 per occurrence
 - (iii) Third or more \$1000 per occurrence

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

RESOLVED this the 5th day of November, 2019.

Approved:

Russell K. Paul, Mayor

Attest:

Coty Thigpen, City Clerk

(Seal)