

City of Burlington Code of Ordinances

Chapter 21 OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS > ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

21-42 Regulation of security alarm systems.

(a) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to provide for a prompt and efficient police response to security alarm signals throughout the city and to encourage alarm system owners to assume greater responsibility for the proper use and maintenance of such systems in order to prevent unnecessary use of emergency police services.

(b) Permit required. No person shall utilize or install a security alarm system within the City unless a permit has been obtained for its use from the Burlington Police Department by the owner of the property upon which the security alarm system is installed.

(1) Definition. For purposes of this section, a security alarm system shall include any type of assembly used to signal the occurrence of illegal entry or activity. Vehicle alarms shall not be considered security alarms for purposes of this section.

(2) Term. Permits shall have a term of no more than one (1) year and shall expire June 30 annually.

(3) Fees. The annual permit fee shall be thirty-six dollars (\$36.00), prorated monthly (Three dollars (\$3.00)/month or any part thereof).

(4) Application. The owner of the property upon which the security alarm system is installed shall provide the following information on the permit application:

(a) Type and location of alarm;

(b) Name, address and phone number of owner of the property upon which the security alarm system is installed;

(c) Name and phone number of occupant(s) of property upon which the security alarm system is installed;

(d) Name, address, and phone number of the person to whom the fees and charges will be sent;

(e) Name, address and phone number of person to be contacted in the event of an alarm at the site and two (2) alternate contact persons;

(f) Name, address and phone number of person or company responsible for installing the alarm;

(g) Name, address and phone number of alarm company responsible for monitoring the alarm system.

(5) Confidentiality. All information provided in the permit application shall be deemed confidential and shall not be subject to public disclosure.

(c) Penalty. The installation or utilization of a security alarm system without the filing of a complete application, the payment of the permit fee, or the payment when due of response charges required by this section is a civil offense punishable by a fine of up to five hundred dollars (\$500.00) with a waiver penalty of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). All duly authorized enforcement officials are authorized to issue a municipal complaint for a violation of this section.

(d) Response charges.

(1) Response charges shall be assessed to the owner of the property upon which a security alarm system is installed when the police respond to an alarm and there has been or is no unlawful entry or activity on the property which led to the activation of the alarm. Response charges shall be assessed in the event of:

(A) The activation of an alarm system through mechanical failure, malfunction, or improper installation;

(B) The activation of an alarm system through the negligence of the owner or tenant at the property where the alarm system is located or of their employees or agents; or

(C) The activation of an alarm system through any other cause unrelated to unlawful entry or activity on the property where the alarm system is located.

(2) Response charges shall be assessed as follows for the period between July 1 and June 30:

(A) First response—Warning

(B) Second response—Warning

(C) Third response—\$70.00

(D) Fourth response—\$100.00

(E) Fifth or subsequent response—\$150.00

(Ord. of 1-22-96; Ord. of 7-12-04, eff. 8-11-04)