

DISTRICT OF LANGFORD

BYLAW NO. 166

A BYLAW TO REDUCE FALSE ALARM DISPATCHES

WHEREAS by Section 932.1 of the Municipal Act provides that Council may establish fees to be paid by the owner or occupier of real property to which policing services are provided in response to a false alarm or a security alarm system;

AND WHEREAS the response to false alarms by police department incurs a cost to the municipality that should be born by the alarm industry;

AND WHEREAS these false alarm dispatches require emergency responses from police posing a threat to the safety of police officers and members of the public by creating unnecessary hazards;

AND WHEREAS under Section 526 of the Municipality Act the Council may regulate the carrying on of business in the municipality for the purposes of protecting the public or preventing and minimizing nuisances;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the District of Langford in open meeting assembled enacts as follows:

1. DEFINITIONS:

In this bylaw,

- a) "Alarm Business" means a person, partnership or company engaged in the selling, installing, maintaining, servicing and monitoring alarm systems and reporting the occurrence of alarms to the police.
- b) "Alarm System" means any mechanical, electrical or electronic device which is designed, intended or used for the detection of any unauthorized entry into a building, structure, facility or surrounding area, or for alerting other to the commission of an unlawful act, or both, and which emits a sound or transmits a message, or does both, but does not include:
 - i) a device which registers and alarm which is not audible, visible or detectable outside the premises inside which it is installed, or
 - ii) a device which is installed in a motor vehicle.
- c) "False Alarm Dispatch" means the activation of an alarm system resulting in the direct or indirect notification of the police to attend the address of the alarm systems where there has been no unauthorized entry or commission of an unlawful act on or in relation to the building, structure, residence or facility, or where there has been no emergency situation. False alarm incidents include but are not limited to:
 - i) the testing of an alarm which results in a police dispatch response;
 - ii) an alarm actually or apparently activated by mechanical failure, malfunction or faulty equipment;
 - iii) and alarm activated by user error;

- iv) an alarm reporting and attempted or completed or criminal offence or an emergency situation occurring on or in relation to the address in which the alarm system is installed where no evidence exists or where no such event took place;
 - v) an alarm actually or apparently activated by atmospheric condition, excessive vibrations or power failure.
- d) “Hold Up Alarm” means an alarm system installed in a bank, trust company or credit union, designed to indicate the occurrence of a hold up or robbery.
- e) “Person” means a person as defined within the Interpretation Act.
2. All alarm systems shall require a permit, said permit may be obtained from the License Inspector at no charge as set forth in Section 3.
3. Alarm system users that do not hold a valid permit and that generate a false alarm **dispatch** will be charged (\$25.00) **fee** for a permit.
4. On each occasion that an alarm business reports an alarm to the police it shall first place a telephone call to the premises from which the alarm was sent to verify that the alarm is not false, and immediately telephone or otherwise contact the owner, or occupier, or other person responsible for the premises from which the alarm was sent, to request that person to attend the premises immediately. The person attending the premises should be able to afford the police access to the premises and be capable of operating the system.
5. a) If in any twelve (12) month period the police respond to three (3) false alarm dispatches originating from one alarm system, the Bylaw Enforcement Officer shall cause a notice to be sent to the occupier of the property in which the alarm systems is installed advising of the occurrence of the false alarms and of the consequences which may arise if further false alarm dispatches occur.
- b) If in any twelve (12) month period the police respond to four (4) or more false alarm dispatches originating from one alarm system, there shall be imposed on the occupier of the property in which the alarm system is installed a fee of \$100.00 for the fourth and each subsequent false alarm dispatch.
- c) Any fees imposed under this bylaw shall be due and payable within 45 days of invoice and, if unpaid on December 31st of the year in which they are imposed, shall be added to and form part of the taxes payable on the real property as taxes in arrears.
- d) i) If in any twelve (12) month period the police respond to five (5) or more false alarm dispatches originating from one system, the Officer In Charge/Western Communities RCMP may cause a notice in writing to be sent to the occupier of the property in which the alarm system is installed advising that the police shall not respond to subsequent alarms.
- ii) Before response to alarms will resume the occupier shall submit to the License Inspector an inspection report completed by a Trades Qualified Service Technician who is licensed as such under the Private Investigators and Security Agencies Act certifying the alarm system is functioning properly.

- iii) On receipt of a valid inspection report the License Inspector may recommend to the Officer in Charge/Western Communities RCMP to resume alarm response and a new 12 month period will begin from the date of the inspection report.

6. APPEAL:

- a) An occupier of premises may appeal the validity of a determination that an alarm was false by submitting a notice in writing to the Bylaw Enforcement Officer within ten (10) days of being notified of the determination of the false alarm. The Bylaw Enforcement Officer shall:
 - i) conduct an internal investigation; or
 - ii) attempt to resolve the appeal informally with the occupier; or
 - iii) convene a hearing with the Clerk-Administrator and the Bylaw Enforcement Officer; or
 - iv) receive written or oral submissions from the occupier.
- b) The determination by the Bylaw Enforcement Officer under this section, of whether an alarm dispatch was false, shall be final and conclusive for all purposes.

7. In any portion of this Bylaw is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not effect the remaining portions of this Bylaw.

8. Any person who violates Section 2 of this bylaw is guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine of not less than \$100.00 and not more than \$2,000.00. A separate offence shall be deemed to be committed upon each day during and in which the contravention occurs or continues.

9. This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the "False Alarm Dispatch Bylaw, 1996".

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 3rd day of September, 1996

READ A SECOND TIME THIS 3rd day of September, 1996.

READ A THIRD TIME THIS 3rd day of September, 1996.

ADOPTED THIS 16th day of September, 1996.

MAYOR

CLERK-ADMINISTRATOR



City of Langford
2nd Floor, 877 Goldstream Avenue
Victoria, BC V9B 2X8

Telephone: (250)474-0604 Fax: (250)391-3433

ALARM REGISTRATION

Home Business Permit No. _____

Business Name (if applicable) _____

Applicant Name _____ Telephone Number _____

Alarm Location (address) _____ Postal Code _____

Date _____ Applicant's Signature _____

*NOTE: The information listed below will be forwarded to the
Western Communities RCMP Detachment*

Silent Alarm Audible Alarm Monitored Alarm

Company _____

Phone Number _____

Emergency Contacts (should be able to access premises and operate alarm)

1. Name _____

Phone No. _____

2. Name _____

Phone No. _____

3. Name _____

Phone No. _____

Remarks (Special Instructions, guard dog, etc.) _____

Please Note: A \$25 Permit Fee is required with this application



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