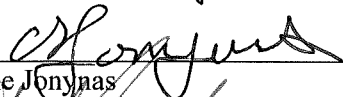


**Town of Chester**  
**Alarm Ordinance**

Whereas an increasing number of business and homes are providing protection from burglary and robbery by means of electronic alarm systems; and whereas the Town has indicated that human error, or mechanical malfunctions of criminal detection and burglar alarms in the Town of Chester has resulted in a significant number of false alarms being signaled to which Police and Fire Departments and/or Rescue must respond; and whereas the emergency response to each false alarm requires the deployment of personnel and vehicles to non-emergency situations and effectively removes that personnel and equipment from the designated service of protecting life and properties and causes unnecessary expenditure of public funds; and whereas this increasing number of alarms has caused an increase in use of time and money in order to document, and properly manage such alarms;

Now, therefore, be it enacted by the Selectboard of the Town of Chester, Windsor County, Vermont,  
05143

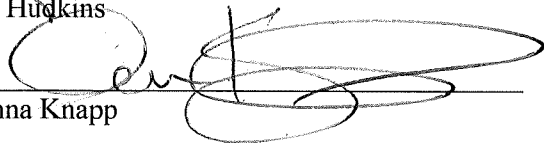
Dated: January 3, 2004

  
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Arne Jonynas

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lee Gustafson

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Heather Chase

  
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Peter Hudkins

  
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Arianna Knapp

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## ALARM ORDINANCE

### SECTION 1. PURPOSE

(A) The purpose of this Ordinance is to encourage Alarm Users and alarm companies to properly use and maintain the operational effectiveness of Alarm Systems in order to improve the reliability of Alarm Systems and reduce or eliminate False Alarms.

(B) This Ordinance governs Alarm Systems intended to summon law enforcement and fire department response, and requires registration, establishes fees, provides for penalties for violations, establishes a system of administration, and sets conditions for suspension of police and fire response or revocation of registration.

### SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

In this Ordinance, the following terms and phrases shall have the following meanings:

- (A) **Alarm Administrator** shall be the Chief of Police or his/her designee to administer, control and review False Alarm reduction efforts and administer the provisions of this Ordinance.
- (B) **Alarm Installation Company** means a Person in the business of selling, providing, maintaining, servicing, repairing, altering, replacing, moving, or installing an Alarm System in an Alarm Site.
- (C) **Alarm Dispatch Request** means a notification to a law enforcement agency and/or fire department that an alarm, either manual or automatic, has been activated at a particular Alarm Site.
- (D) **Alarm Registration** (or Permits) means authorization granted by the Alarm Administrator to an Alarm User to operate an Alarm System.
- (E) **Alarm Site** means a single fixed premises or location served by an Alarm System or Systems. Each unit, if served by a separate Alarm System in a multi-unit building or complex, shall be considered a separate Alarm Site.
- (F) **Alarm System** means a device or series of devices, including, but not limited to, hardwired systems and systems interconnected with a radio frequency method such as cellular or private radio signals, which emit or transmit a remote or local audible, visual, or electronic signal indicating an alarm condition and intended to summon law enforcement and/or fire department response, including Local Alarm Systems. Alarm System does not include an alarm installed in a vehicle or on someone's Person unless the vehicle or the personal alarm is permanently located at a site.
- (G) **Alarm User** means any Person, that has contracted for Monitoring, repair, installation, or maintenance service from an Alarm Installation Company or Monitoring Company for an Alarm System, or that owns or operates an Alarm System which is not monitored, maintained, or repaired under contract.
- (H) **Arming Station** means a device that allows control of an Alarm System.

- (I) **Automatic Voice Dialer** means any electrical, electronic, mechanical, or other device capable of being programmed to send a prerecorded voice message, when activated, over a telephone line, radio, or other communication system, to a Monitoring Company.
- (J) **Cancellation** means the process where response is terminated when a Monitoring Company (designated by the Alarm User) for the Alarm Site notifies the responding law enforcement agency and/or fire department that there is not an existing situation at the Alarm Site requiring law enforcement agency or fire department response after an Alarm Dispatch Request.
- (K) **Conversion** means the transaction or process by which one Alarm Installation Company or Monitoring Company begins the servicing and/or Monitoring of a previously unmonitored Alarm System or an Alarm System previously serviced and/or monitored by another alarm company.
- (L) **Duress Alarm** means a silent Alarm System signal generated by the entry of a designated code into an Arming Station in order to signal that the Alarm User is being forced to turn off the system and requires law enforcement and/or fire department response.
- (M) **False Alarm** means an Alarm Dispatch Request to a law enforcement agency or fire department, when the responding law enforcement officer or fire department personnel finds no evidence of a criminal offense, attempted criminal offense, or fire after having completed a timely investigation of the Alarm Site.
- (N) **Fire Department Authority** means the Town of Chester, Fire Chief, or other authorized representative of the Chester Fire Department.
- (O) **Holdup Alarm** means a silent alarm signal generated by the manual activation of a device intended to signal a robbery in progress.
- (P) **Law Enforcement Authority** means the Town of Chester, Chief of Police, or other authorized representative of the Chester Police Department.
- (Q) **Local Alarm System** means any Alarm System, which is not monitored, that annunciates an alarm only at the Alarm Site.
- (R) **Monitoring** means the process by which a Monitoring Company receives signals from an Alarm System and relays an Alarm Dispatch Request to the municipality for the purpose of summoning law enforcement or fire department to the Alarm Site.
- (S) **Monitoring Company** means a Person in the business of providing Monitoring services.
- (T) **One Plus Duress Alarm** means the manual activation of a silent alarm signal by entering at an Arming Station a code that adds one to the last digit of the normal arm/disarm code (e.g., normal code = 1234, One Plus Duress Code = 1235)
- (U) **Panic Alarm** means an audible Alarm System signal generated by the manual activation of a device intended to signal a life threatening or emergency situation requiring law enforcement and/or Fire Department response.
- (V) **Person** means an individual, corporation, partnership, association, organization, or similar entity.
- (W) **Responder (Caretaker)** means an individual capable of reaching the Alarm Site within 30 minutes and having access to the Alarm Site, the code to the Alarm System, and the authority to approve repairs to the Alarm System.

- (X) **SIA Control Panel Standard CP-01** means the ANSI ( American National Standard Institute) approved Security Industry Association ( SIA) CP-01 Control Panel Standard, as may be updated from time to time, that details recommended design features for security system control panels and their associated arming and disarming devices to reduce the incidence of false alarms. Control panels built and tested to this standard by Underwriters Laboratory (UL), or other nationally recognized testing organizations, will be marked to state: "Design evaluated in accordance with SIA CP-01 Control Panel Standard Features for False Alarm Reduction".
- (Y) **Takeover** means the transaction or process by which an Alarm User takes over control of an existing Alarm System, which was previously controlled by another Alarm User.
- (Z) **Verify** means an attempt by the Monitoring Company, or its representative, to contact the Alarm Site by telephonic or other electronic means, whether or not actual contact with a Person is made, to determine whether an alarm signal is valid before requesting law enforcement or fire department dispatch, in an attempt to avoid an unnecessary Alarm Dispatch Request.
- (AA) **Zones** means division of devices into which an Alarm System is divided to indicate the general location and type of alarm from which an Alarm System signal is transmitted.

**SECTION 3. REGISTRATION REQUIRED; APPLICATION; FEE; TRANSFERABILITY; FALSE STATEMENTS**

- (A) No Alarm User shall operate, or cause to be operated, an Alarm System at its Alarm Site without a valid Alarm Registration. A separate Alarm Registration is required for each Alarm Site.
- (B) There is an annual fee for Alarm Registrations (see appendix C). The annual fee is due each January 1 of each year, and there is no pro-rating the fee. If an Alarm System is registered in September, that fee registers the alarm for the remainder of that calendar year. The fee for the next calendar year shall be due on January 1.
- (C) Upon receipt of a completed Alarm Registration application form **and fee**, the Alarm Administrator shall register the applicant unless the applicant has:
  - (1) had an alarm registration for the Alarm Site suspended or revoked, and the violation causing the suspension or revocation has not been corrected.
- (D) Each Alarm Registration application must include the following information:
  - (1) the name, complete address (including apt/suite number), and telephone numbers of the Person who will be the registration holder and be responsible for the proper maintenance and operation of the Alarm System, and payment of fees assessed under this article;
  - (2) the classification of the Alarm Site as either residential (includes apartment, condo, mobile home, etc.) or commercial;

- (3) for each Alarm System located at the Alarm Site, the classification of the Alarm System (i.e., burglary, Holdup, Duress, Panic Alarms, or other) and for each classification whether such alarm is audible or silent;
  - (4) mailing address, if different from the address of the Alarm Site;
  - (5) any dangerous or special conditions present at the Alarm Site;
  - (6) names and telephone numbers of at least two individuals who are able and have agreed to:
    - (a) receive notification of an Alarm System activation at any time;
    - (b) respond to the Alarm Site within 30 minutes at any time; and
    - (c) upon request can grant access to the Alarm Site and deactivate the Alarm System if necessary;
  - (7) type of business conducted at a commercial Alarm Site;
  - (8) signed certification from the Alarm User stating the following:
    - (a) the date of installation, Conversion or Takeover of the Alarm System, whichever is applicable;
    - (b) the name, address, and telephone number of the Alarm Installation Company or companies performing the Alarm System installation, Conversion or Takeover and of the Alarm Installation Company responsible for providing repair service to the Alarm System;
    - (c) the name, address, and telephone number of the Monitoring Company if different from the Alarm Installation Company;
    - (d) that a set of written operating instructions for the Alarm System, including written guidelines on how to avoid False Alarms, have been left with the applicant by the Alarm Installation Company; and
    - (e) that the Alarm Installation Company has trained the applicant in proper use of the Alarm System, including instructions on how to avoid False Alarms.
  - (9) that law enforcement and/or fire department response may be influenced by factors including, but not limited to, the availability of police units, fire department units, priority of calls, weather conditions, traffic conditions, emergency conditions, staffing levels, etc.
  - (10) appropriate alarm registration fee
- (E) Any false statement of a material fact made by an applicant for the purpose of obtaining an Alarm Registration shall be sufficient cause for refusal to issue a registration.

- (F) An Alarm Registration cannot be transferred to another Alarm Site. An Alarm User shall inform the Alarm Administrator of any change that alters any of the information listed on the Alarm Registration application within five (5) business days of such change.

**SECTION 4. DUTIES OF THE ALARM USER**

- (A) An Alarm User shall:
  - (1) maintain the Alarm Site and the Alarm System in a manner that will minimize or eliminate False Alarms;
  - (2) make every reasonable effort to have a Responder to the Alarm System's location within 30 minutes when requested by the law enforcement agency and/or fire department in order to:
    - (a) deactivate an Alarm System;
    - (b) provide access to the Alarm Site; and/or
    - (c) provide alternative security for the Alarm Site.
  - (3) not activate an Alarm System for any reason other than an occurrence of an event that the Alarm System was intended to report.
- (B) An Alarm User shall adjust the mechanism or cause the mechanism to be adjusted so that an alarm signal audible on the exterior of an Alarm Site will sound for no longer than ten (10) minutes after being activated.
- (B) An Alarm User shall have a Vermont Licensed Alarm Installation Company inspect the Alarm System after two (2) False Alarms in a one (1) year period. The Alarm Administrator may waive a required inspection if it determines that a False Alarm(s) could not have been related to a defect or malfunction in the Alarm System. After four (4) False Alarms within a one (1) year period, the Alarm User must have a Vermont Licensed Alarm Installation Company modify the Alarm System to be more false alarm resistant or provide additional user training as appropriate.  
**[See Appendix A for Installers False Alarm Prevention Checklist]**
- (D) An Alarm User shall not use Automatic Voice Dialers.
- (E) An Alarm User shall maintain at each Alarm Site, a set of written operating instructions for each Alarm System.

**SECTION 5. DUTIES OF ALARM INSTALLATION COMPANY AND MONITORING COMPANY**

- (A) The Alarm Installation Company shall provide written and oral instructions to each of its Alarm Users in the proper use and operation of their Alarm Systems. Such instructions will specifically include all instructions necessary to turn the Alarm System on and off and to avoid False Alarms.
- (B) Upon the effective date of this Ordinance, Alarm Installation Companies shall not program Alarm Systems so that they are capable of sending One Plus Duress Alarm. Monitoring Companies may continue to report One Plus Duress Alarms received from Alarm Systems programmed with One Plus Duress Alarms prior to enactment of this Ordinance. However, upon the effective date of this Ordinance, when a Takeover or Conversion occurs or if an Alarms User requests an Alarms System inspection or modification pursuant to Section 4(C) of this Ordinance, an Alarm Installation Company must remove the One Plus Duress Alarm capability from such Alarm Systems.

- (C) Upon the effective date of this Ordinance, Alarm Installation Companies shall not install a device to activate a Holdup Alarm, which is a single action, non-recessed button.
- (D) Ninety (90) days after enactment of this Ordinance, and conditioned upon reasonable availability, the Alarm Installation Companies shall, on new installations, use only alarm control panel(s) which meet SIA Control Panel Standard CP-01.
- (E) An alarm company shall not use Automatic Voice Dialers.
- (F) After completion of the installation of an Alarm System, an Alarm Installation Company employee shall review with the Alarm User the **Customer False Alarm Prevention Checklist (Appendix B)**, or an equivalent checklist approved by the Alarm Administrator.
- (H) A Monitoring Company shall:
  - (1) report alarm signals by using telephone numbers designated by the Alarm Administrator;
  - (2) verify every alarm signal, except a Duress or Holdup Alarm activation before requesting a law enforcement and/or fire department response to an Alarm System signal;
  - (3) communicate Alarm Dispatch Requests to the municipality in a manner and form determined by the Alarm Administrator;
  - (4) communicate Cancellations to the municipality in a manner and form determined by the Alarm Administrator;
  - (5) ensure that all Alarm Users of Alarm Systems equipped with a Duress, Holdup, or Panic Alarm are given adequate training as to the proper use of the Duress, Holdup, or Panic Alarm;
  - (6) communicate any available information (north, south, front, back, floor, etc.) about the location on all alarm signals related to the Alarm Dispatch Request;
  - (7) communicate type of alarm activation (silent or audible, interior or perimeter);
  - (8) provide an Alarm User registration number when requesting law enforcement and/or fire department dispatch;
  - (9) after an Alarm Dispatch Request, promptly advise the law enforcement agency and/or fire department if the Monitoring Company knows that the Alarm User or the Responder is on the way to the Alarm Site;



- (10) attempt to contact the Alarm User or Responder within 24 hours via mail, fax, telephone or other electronic means when an Alarm Dispatch Request is made; and
- (11) upon the effective date of this Ordinance, Monitoring Companies must maintain for a period of at least one (1) year from the date of the Alarm Dispatch Request, records relating to Alarm Dispatch Requests. Records must include the name, address, and telephone number of the Alarm User, the Alarm System Zone(s) activated, the time of Alarm Dispatch Request, and evidence of an attempt to Verify. The Alarm Administrator may request copies of such records for individually named Alarm Users. If the request is made within sixty (60) days of an Alarm Dispatch Request, the Monitoring Company shall furnish requested records within three (3) business days of receiving the request. If the records are requested between sixty (60) days to one (1) year after an Alarm Dispatch Request, the Monitoring Company shall furnish the requested records within thirty (30) days of receiving the request.

- (I) An Alarm Installation Company and/or Monitoring Company that purchases Alarm System accounts from another Person shall notify the Alarm Administrator of such purchase and provide details as may be reasonably requested by the Alarm Administrator.

#### **SECTION 5.1 LICENSE OR LICENSING**

All Alarm Installation Companies and Monitoring Companies shall be properly licensed.

#### **SECTION 6. DUTIES AND AUTHORITY OF THE ALARM ADMINISTRATOR**

- (A) The Alarm Administrator shall:

- (1) designate a manner, form and telephone numbers for the communication of Alarm Dispatch Requests; and
- (2) establish a procedure to accept Cancellation of Alarm Dispatch Requests.

- (B) The Alarm Administrator shall establish a procedure to record such information on Alarm Dispatch Requests necessary to permit the Alarm Administrator to maintain records, including, but not limited to, the information listed below.

- (1) identification of the registration number for the Alarm Site;
- (2) identification of the Alarm Site;
- (3) date and time Alarm Dispatch Request was received, including the name of the Monitoring Company, and the Monitoring operator name or number;
- (4) date and time of law enforcement officer and/or fire department arrival at the Alarm Site;
- (5) Zone and Zone description, if available;
- (6) weather conditions;

- (7) name of Alarm User's representative at Alarm Site, if any;
  - (8) identification of the responsible Alarm Installation Company or Monitoring Company;
  - (9) whether law enforcement officer and/or fire department was unable to locate the address of the Alarm Site; and
  - (10) cause of alarm signal, if known.
- (C) The Alarm Administrator shall establish a procedure for the notification to the Alarm User of a False Alarm. The notice shall include the following information:
- (1) the date and time of law enforcement and/or fire department response to the False Alarm;
  - (2) the identification number of the responding law enforcement officer and/or fire department; and
  - (3) a statement urging the Alarm User to ensure that the Alarm System is properly operated, inspected, and serviced in order to avoid False Alarms and resulting fines.
- (D) The Alarm Administrator may require a conference with an Alarm User and the Alarm Installation Company and/or Monitoring Company responsible for the repair or monitoring of the Alarm System to review the circumstances of each False Alarm.
- (F) The Alarm Administrator may require an Alarm User to remove a Holdup Alarm that is a single action, non-recessed button, if a false Holdup Alarm has occurred.
- (G) The Alarm Administrator will make a copy of this Ordinance and/or an Ordinance summary sheet available to the Alarm User.

**SECTION 7. FINES**

- (A) An Alarm User shall be subject to fines, depending on the number of False Alarms within a 12-month period based upon the following schedule: (See Appendix C-Fines and Fees)
- (B) In addition, any Person operating a non-registered Alarm System will be subject to a fine of (See **Appendix C - Fines and Fees**) for each False Alarm in addition to any other fines. The Alarm Administrator may waive this additional fine for a non-registered system if the Alarm User submits an application for Alarm Registration within ten (10) days after of notification of such violation.
- (C) If Cancellation occurs prior to law enforcement and/or fire department arriving at the scene, this is not a False Alarm for the purpose of fines, and no fines will be assessed.
- (D) The Alarm Installation Company shall be assessed a fine (See Appendix C-Fines and Fees) if the officer responding to the False Alarm determines that an on-site employee of the Alarm Installation Company directly caused the False Alarm. In this situation, the False Alarm will not be counted against the Alarm User.

- (E) The Monitoring Company shall be issued a fine (See Appendix C - Fines and Fees) for each failure to Verify Alarm System signals as specified in Section 5(H)(2).
- (F) The Alarm Installation Company shall be issued a fine (**See Appendix C - Fines and Fees**) if the Alarm Administrator determines that an Alarm Installation Company employee knowingly made a false statement concerning the inspection of an Alarm Site or the performance of an Alarm System.
- (G) Notice of the right of Appeal under this ordinance will be included with any fines.

**SECTION 8. NOTIFICATION**

The Alarm Administrator shall notify the Alarm User in writing after each False Alarm. The notification shall include: the amount of the fine for the False Alarm, the fact that The Alarm Registration will be suspended after the third False Alarm, excluding Duress, Holdup, and Panic Alarms, and a description of the appeals procedure available to the Alarm User.

The Alarm Administrator will notify the Alarm User and the Alarm Installation Company or Monitoring Company in writing after the alarm registration has been suspended, except to Duress, Holdup, and Panic Alarms. This notice of suspension will also include the amount of the fine for each False Alarm and a description of the appeals procedure available to the Alarm User and the Alarm Installation Company or Monitoring Company.

**SECTION 9. SUSPENSION OF ALARM REGISTRATION**

- (A) The Alarm Administrator may suspend an Alarm Registration if it is determined that:
  - (1) the Alarm User has three (3) or more False Alarms in a twelve (12) month period excluding Duress, Holdup or Panic Alarms;
  - (2) there is a statement of a material fact known to be false in the application for a registration;
  - (3) the Alarm User has failed to make timely payment of a fine assessed under Section 7 or fee assessed under Section 3; or
  - (4) the Alarm User has failed to submit a written certification from an Alarm Installation Company, that complies with the requirements of this article, stating that the Alarm System has been inspected and repaired (if necessary), and/or additional training has been conducted by the Alarm Installation Company.
- (B) A Person commits an offense if he/she operates an Alarm System during the period in which his alarm registration is revoked and is subject to enforcement and penalties set in Sections 7 and 12. A Monitoring Company commits an offense if it continues Alarm Dispatch Requests to an Alarm Site after notification by the Alarm Administrator that the registration has been revoked and is subject to enforcement and penalties set forth in Section 12.
- (C) If the Alarm Registration is reinstated pursuant to Section 11, the Alarm Administrator may again suspend the Alarm Registration by again revoking the Alarm Registration if it is determined that two (2) False Alarms have occurred within 90 days after the reinstatement date.

**SECTION 10. APPEALS**

- (A) If the Alarm Administrator assesses a fine or denies the issuance of an Alarm Registration, the Alarm Administrator shall send written notice by certified mail of the action and a statement of the right to an appeal to either the affected applicant or Alarm User and the Alarm Installation Company and/or Monitoring Company.
- (B) The Alarm User, Alarm Installation Company or Monitoring Company may appeal a revocation of an Alarm Registration to the Alarm Administrator by setting forth in writing the reasons for the appeal within fifteen (15) business days after receipt of the fine or notice of revocation.
- (C) The Alarm User or the Alarm Installation Company or Monitoring Company may appeal the decision of the Alarm Administrator to the Chester Selectboard as follows:

The Chester Selectboard shall conduct a formal hearing within sixty (60) days of the receipt of the request and consider the evidence by any interested Person(s). The Chester Selectboard shall make its decision on the basis of the preponderance of evidence presented at the hearing. The Chester Selectboard must render a written decision within thirty (30) days after the date of the hearing. The Chester Selectboard shall affirm or reverse the decision of the Alarm Administrator.

- (D) Filing of a request for appeal shall stay the action by the Alarm Administrator or the payment of a fine, until the Chester Selectboard has completed its review. If a request for appeal is not made within the twenty (20) business day period, the action of the Alarm Administrator is final.
- (E) Alarm Administrator or Chester Selectboard may adjust the count of False Alarms based on:
  - (1) Evidence that a False Alarm was caused by an Act of God;
  - (2) Evidence that a False Alarm was caused by action of the telephone company;
  - (3) Evidence that a False Alarm was caused by a power outage lasting longer than four (4) hours;
  - (4) Evidence that the Alarm Dispatch Request was not a False Alarm;
  - (5) In determining the number of False Alarms, multiple alarms occurring in any twenty-four (24) hour period shall be counted as one False Alarm; to allow the Alarm User time to take corrective action unless the False Alarms are directly caused by the Alarm User.
- (F) With respect to fines of an Alarm Installation Company or Monitoring Company the Alarm Administrator or Chester Selectboard may take into consideration whether the alarm company had engaged in a consistent pattern of violations.

**SECTION 11. REINSTATEMENT**

- (A) A Person whose Alarm Registration has been revoked may, at the discretion of the Alarm Administrator or the Chester Selectboard, have the Alarm Registration reinstated by the Alarm Administrator or the Chester Selectboard if the Person:

- (1) submits a new application and pays a reinstatement fee  
**(See Appendix C-Fines and Fees);**
  - (2) pays, or otherwise resolves, all outstanding citations and fines; and
  - (3) submits a certification from an Alarm installation Company, stating that the Alarm System has been inspected and repaired (if necessary) by the Alarm installation Company;
- (E) In addition, the Alarm Administrator may require one or more of the following as a condition to reinstatement:
- (1) proof that an employee of the Alarm Installation Company or Monitoring Company caused the False Alarm;
  - (2) upgrade the alarm control panel to meet SIA Control Panel Standard CP-01;
  - (3) a written statement from an independent inspector designated by the Chester Selectboard that the Alarm System has been inspected and is in good working order;
  - (4) confirmation that the Alarm System requires two independent zones to trigger before transmitting an alarm signal to the Monitoring Company;
  - (5) certification that the Monitoring Company will not make an Alarm Dispatch Request unless the need for law enforcement or fire department is confirmed by a listen-in device;
  - (6) certification that the Monitoring Company will not request an Alarm Dispatch unless the need for law enforcement or fire department is confirmed by a camera device; or
  - (7) certification that the Monitoring Company will not make an Alarm Dispatch Request unless the need for law enforcement or fire department is confirmed by a Person at the Alarm Site.

## **SECTION 12. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES**

Enforcement of this Ordinance shall be by civil action in accordance with the provisions of 24 VSA § 1974(a) and § 1977, and is incorporated by reference in Appendix C, Fines & Fees, for violations of this Ordinance.

## **SECTION 13. CONFIDENTIALITY**

In the interest of public safety, all information contained in and gathered through the Alarm Registration applications and applications for appeals shall be held in confidence by all employees or representatives of the municipality and by any third-party administrator or employees of a third-party administrator with access to such information.

**SECTION 14. GOVERNMENT IMMUNITY**

Alarm Registration is not intended to, nor will it, create a contract, duty, or obligation, either expressed or implied, of response. Any and all liability and consequential damage resulting from the failure to respond to a notification is hereby disclaimed and governmental immunity as provided by law is retained. By applying for an Alarm Registration, the Alarm User acknowledges that law enforcement or fire department response may be influenced by factors such as: the availability of police and/or fire department units, priority of calls, weather conditions, traffic conditions, emergency conditions, staffing levels, and prior response history.

**SECTION 15. SEVERABILITY**

The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If a court determines that a word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subsection, section, or other provision is invalid, or that the application of any part of the provision to any Person or circumstance is invalid, the remaining provisions and the application of those provisions to other Persons or circumstances are not affected by that decision.

Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

TOWN OF CHESTER

INSTALLER FALSE ALARM PREVENTION PROGRAM  
CHECKLIST

Yes No

1. If a duress feature was installed, I thoroughly explained it and I did not program the system so that the duress code is only one digit different than the normal code.
2. I checked that the control panel has been programmed so that:
  - a. it will not transmit more than one (1) alarm signal from the same zone until manually restored at the premises;
  - b. it will delay at least fifteen seconds before initiating dialing on intrusion alarm signals;
  - c. it has adequate delay time on entry/exit doors (delay of 45 seconds or more is recommended); and
  - d. a cancel code can be entered by the customer to cancel accidental alarms.
3. I checked that police and fire panic buttons cause a siren or speaker to sound and that medical panic buttons cause an audible signal.
4. I checked that the Arming Station(s) emit sound to inform occupants when an entry/exit door sensor has been triggered.
5. I installed and tested standby/backup power.
6. I reviewed the "Customer False Alarm Prevention Checklist" with the customer.
7. I determined whether the customer had special telephone features, such as call waiting or DSL, and took appropriate steps to allow proper control panel dialing and monitoring center verification. (Such as \*70 for call waiting, etc.)
8. I checked the control panel was properly grounded to the manufacturer's specifications.
9. I checked that all door and window contacts were properly selected, installed, and tested. I considered loose fitting doors and windows, whether wide gap contacts were needed, and steel doors and windows. I followed the manufacturer's installation instructions.
10. I checked all glass breakage sensors were properly selected, installed, and tested. I gave consideration to pets, on-site noises, and the general environment. I followed the manufacturer's installation instructions.
11. All motion type detectors were properly selected, properly installed, and properly tested. I gave consideration to pets, sunlight, other heat sources, and harsh environments. I followed the manufacturer's installation instructions.

Please explain if you answered "No" to any of the above items: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Installation Technician

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Appendix B**

**TOWN OF CHESTER  
CUSTOMER FALSE ALARM PREVENTION  
CHECKLIST**

**Yes    No**

1. I have been made aware of the applicable alarm ordinance and I will comply with its requirements.
2. I understand that it is my responsibility to prevent false alarms, and I understand that it is critical and my responsibility to assure that all users of the system are trained on the proper use of the system.
3. I have been trained in the proper operation of the system and have been given an operating sheet summarizing the proper use of the system, as well as the security system operating manual.
4. I know how to turn off motion detectors while leaving other sensors on (residential only).
5. I know how to test the system, including the communication link with the monitoring center.
6. I understand that my entry time is \_\_\_\_ and my exit time is \_\_\_\_>
7. I have the alarm company phone number to request repair service or to ask questions about the alarm system.
8. I know how to cancel an accidental alarm activation and have the system cancellation code or code word
9. I understand that indoor pets can cause false alarms and I will contact my alarm company to adjust the system if I acquire any additional indoor pets.
10. I understand that the main control panel and transformer are located in \_\_\_\_
11. I have received an alarm sheet, which describes how the alarm company will communicate with me in the event of various alarm signals.
12. I understand the importance of keeping my emergency contact information updated and I know how to do this; immediately advising the alarm company if my phone number changes (including area code changes); and immediately advising the alarm company of any other changes to my telephone service such as call waiting or a fax line.
13. I will advise the alarm company if I do any remodeling (such as painting, moving walls, doors, or windows).
14. I understand that certain building defects (such as loose-fitting doors or windows, rodents, inadequate power, and roof leaks) can cause false alarms. I will correct these defects as I become aware of them.
15. The alarm company has given me written false alarm prevention techniques to help me prevent false alarms.

ALARM COMPANY

CUSTOMER

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**Appendix C:**

**TOWN OF CHESTER  
FINES AND FEES**

Description	Reference	Fire Alarms	Other Alarms
<b>Annual Registration Fee</b>	<b>3-B</b>	<b>\$25</b>	<b>\$25</b>
Fine - <b>First</b> False Alarm	7-A-1	\$0	\$0
Fine - Second False Alarm	7-A-1	\$100	\$50
Fine - Third False Alarm	7-A-1	\$200	\$100
Fine – Fourth False Alarm	7-A-1	\$500	\$250
Fine – Fifth or more False Alarm(s)	7-A-1	\$500	\$500
Operation of a Non-registered Alarm System	7-B	\$100	\$100
False Alarm Caused by On Site Alarm Company Employee	7-E	\$100	\$100
Monitoring Company Failure to Verify	7-F	\$100	\$100
False Statement by an Alarm Co. Employee Making an On- Site Inspection	7-G	\$500	\$500

**Date of Amendment of Ordinance**