

27.501 ALARM SYSTEMS. (Rep. & Rec. GO 29-05)

(1) **PURPOSE.** The primary purpose of this section is to reduce the incidence of false alarms by eliminating those which are preventable or avoidable. It is also meant to encourage the installation of reliable alarm systems in all structures within the City to provide additional protection to persons and property from fire, crime, and such other hazards as may constitute a danger to persons and/or property.

(2) **DEFINITIONS.**

(a) **Alarm Business** means any person, firm, partnership, or corporation which alters, installs, leases, maintains, monitors, replaces, sells, services, or responds to an alarm system or which causes any of these activities to take place.

(b) **Alarm System** means a device or system that emits, transmits, or relays a remote or local audible, visual, or electronic signal indicating an alarm condition and intended to or reasonably expected to summon police or fire services. Alarm system does not include an alarm installed on a vehicle or an alarm designed to alert only the inhabitants of a premises that does not emit a signal that is audible or visible from the exterior of the structure.

(c) **Fire Alarm System** means a system or portion of a combination system consisting of components and circuits arranged to monitor and/or exterior annunciate the status of a fire alarm or supervisory signal-initiating devices and to initiate the appropriate response to those signals.

(d) **Alarm User** means any person, firm, partnership, or corporation on whose premises an alarm system is maintained.

(e) **Hold-Up Alarm** means an alarm system in which the signal transmission is initiated by the action of a robber or employee of the protected premises.

(f) **False Alarm** means an alarm signal resulting in a response by police and/or fire services during which no evidence of an alarm condition is located.

(g) (Cr. GO 22-15) **Residential** means an individual who resides at a one or two family dwelling.

(3) **ALARM BUSINESS PERMIT.**

(a) **Requirement.** No person shall operate an alarm business in the City of Green Bay without first obtaining an alarm business permit.

(b) **Application.** A person desiring to secure a permit shall make application to the City Clerk and shall furnish all information deemed necessary by the Clerk under oath and present a valid form of government issued identification bearing the applicant's photograph.

(c) **Fee and Duration.** An alarm business permit shall be valid through December 31 of the year of its issuance, unless sooner revoked. The fee shall be \$50.

(d) **Procedure for Granting.** The Police Department shall review completed applications. If the Police Department determines that any portion of the application is false or that the applicant has been convicted of a violation of an ordinance or law that substantially relates to the licensed activity, the application may be denied by the Police Department. If the Police Department approves the issuance of the permit, the City Clerk may grant the permit without further review. Any applicant whose application has

been denied by the Police Department may appeal such determination to the Protection and Welfare Committee, subject to final disposition by the Common Council. Appeal from a decision of the Common Council shall be to the Circuit Court for Brown County.

(4) ALARM USER PERMIT. (Amd. GO 22-15)

(a) Requirement. An alarm user who is residential is required to obtain a permit for any hold-up or burglar alarm systems installed, but is not required to obtain a fire alarm permit. An alarm user who is not residential is required to obtain a fire alarm permit. Apartment buildings that only contain battery operated smoke detectors that are not interconnected through wiring or wireless technology are not required to obtain a fire alarm permit. The fire alarm permit shall be displayed at the main fire alarm control panel. If an alarm user who is not residential installs a hold-up or burglar alarm system, a permit is required.

(b) Application. A person desiring to secure an alarm system permit shall apply directly to the City Clerk. In addition to the alarm user's information, each alarm user shall provide the name and contact information for at least one additional person who can be reached at any time and who are authorized by the alarm user to respond to an alarm signal and who can open the premises in which the system is installed and deactivate or reset the alarm system.

(c) Fee and Duration. An alarm user permit shall be valid through December 31 of the year of its issuance, unless sooner revoked.

1. Alarm user permit fee. The fee for an alarm user permit is as follows:

a. \$15 for an alarm user who is residential obtaining a hold-up alarm or other burglar alarm system.

b. \$30 for an alarm user who is not residential obtaining a hold-up alarm system or burglar alarm system, a fire alarm system, or both.

(d) Procedure for Granting. The Police Department or Fire Department may grant the alarm user permit upon the filing of a completed application and payment of the appropriate fee.

(5) FALSE ALARMS.

(a) Hold-Up Alarms.

1. Premises Holding a Permit. After the Police Department has recorded one false hold-up alarm in any calendar year, the permittee shall be assessed a fee of \$100 for the second false hold-up alarm, \$200 for the third false hold-up alarm, and \$300 for the fourth and subsequent false hold-up alarms in a calendar year.

2. Premises without a Permit. The alarm user shall be assessed a fee of \$100 for the first false hold-up alarm, \$200 for the second false hold-up alarm, and \$300 for the third and subsequent false hold-up alarms in a calendar year.

(b) Other Alarm Systems.

1. Premises Holding a Permit. After the Police Department or Fire Department has recorded one false alarm in any calendar year, the permittee may be assessed a fee of \$50 for the second false alarm, \$75

for the third false alarm, \$125 for the fourth false alarm, and \$175 for the fifth and subsequent false alarms in a calendar year.

2. Premises without a Permit. The alarm user may be assessed a fee of \$50 for the first false alarm, \$75 for the second false alarm, \$125 for the third false alarm, and \$175 for the fourth and subsequent false alarms in a calendar year.

(c) Fee Payment. False alarm fees shall be paid to the City Treasurer. Fees unpaid within 60 days of billing shall be collected as a special charge pursuant to Sec. 66.0627, Wis. Stats.

(6) SIGNAL TIME LIMIT. Any alarm system that, when activated, causes an audible or visual signal externally of the premises shall signal for a maximum of 30 minutes; after which time the system shall cease all signals, resetting itself for any new activation.

(7) VIOLATIONS OF THIS SECTION. (Cr. GO 22-15)

(a) Any alarm user who alters, disables, or destroys its fire alarm system to render the fire alarm system inoperable shall be subject to forfeiture not to exceed \$1,000.

(b) Any alarm user who does not obtain a required permit shall be subject to forfeiture not to exceed \$60.