

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4-2 (ALARM SYSTEMS) RELATING TO ALARM SYSTEM REGULATIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT COMPLEXES, AUTHORIZING DIRECTOR DISCRETION FOR FEE WAIVERS, AND CHANGING REFERENCES WITHIN THE CHAPTER.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

PART 1. Subsections (2), (9) and (10) of City Code Section 4-2-1 (*Definitions*) are amended to read as follows:

- (2) ALARM SITE means the property served by an alarm system and under control of a single owner, tenant or lessor. For residential apartment complexes with more than one residential unit, each residential unit shall be considered a separate alarm site but non-residential areas, including a common tenant area, office, storage, or equipment area will be considered a singular alarm site.
- (9) PRINCIPAL ~~[MASTER]~~ ALARM PERMIT means a permit issued to the owner or property manager of a residential apartment complex in which an alarm system operates in one or more individual residential units.
- (10) PERSONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEM (PANIC BUTTON) ALARM means an alarm system that is installed at the residence of a person or business, monitored by an alarm systems company, and designed only to permit the person to signal the occurrence of a medical or personal emergency so that the company may dispatch appropriate aid; it is not part of a burglar alarm system or fire alarm system.

PART 2. Subsection (C) of City Code 4-2-11 (*Permit Required*) is amended to read as follows:

(C) A permit holder shall:

- (1) keep the alarm permit at the alarm site; and
- (2) produce the permit for inspection at the request of a ~~[n]~~ City employee. ~~[of the Development Services Department.]~~

PART 3. City Code Section 4-2-15 (*Fees*) is amended to read as follow:

§ 4-2-15 FEES.

(A) A permittee, including the holder of a principal ~~[master]~~ alarm permit, shall pay to the Development Services Department:

(1) the permit fee;

(2) a late payment fee, if the person fails to pay the permit fee by its due date; and

(3) other fees related to a permit, including a false alarm service fee assessed under Section 4-2-21 (*False Alarm Notification*).

(B) The fees assessed under this section are established by separate ordinance.

(C) Except for the permit fee, the director may investigate and waive payments of a fee assessed under this section.

PART 4. Subsections (A) and (B) of City Code Chapter 4-2-19 (*Appeal from Denial or Revocation*) is amended to read as follows:

(A) If the director denies an application or revokes a permit, the director shall notify the applicant or permittee by certified mail. ~~[, return receipt requested.]~~

(B) Not later than the 10th day after the affected person receives notice of an adverse action by the director, the person may file a notice of appeal with the director, including the reason for the appeal. Failure to file a timely appeal under this subsection results in the director's ~~[police chiefs]~~ action becoming final.

PART 5. Subsection (C) of City Code Section 4-2-20 (*Operation and Maintenance of an Alarm System*) is amended to read as follows:

(C) A permittee shall notify the Development Services Department, in writing, if the permittee relinquishes control of the alarm site and cancels the permit. If a permittee fails to notify the Development Services Department, under this section, the permittee shall pay fees associated with the permit, if any.

PART 6. Subsections (C) and (D) of City Code Section 4-2-21 (*False Alarm Notification*) are amended to read as follows:

(C) Except as provided under subsection (D), a~~[A]~~ tenant holding an individual alarm permit shall pay a false alarm notification fee related to a transmission from the alarm system in the tenant's unit.

(D) The permittee holding the principal~~master~~ alarm permit ~~[holder]~~ shall pay a false alarm notification fee for a false alarm transmission ~~[related to a transmission]~~ from:

- (1) a unit in which the tenant has not obtained an individual alarm permit if it was the first alarm transmission;
- (2) an unoccupied residential unit; or ~~[or a unit from which a tenant has not obtained an individual alarm permit.]~~
- (3) a non-residential area of the apartment complex.

PART 7. This ordinance takes effect on _____, 2024.

PASSED AND APPROVED

, 2024

Kirk Watson
Mayor

APPROVED: _____

Deborah Thomas
Acting City Attorney

ATTEST:

Myrna Rios
City Clerk