

ORDINANCE REQUIRING PERMITS FOR ALARM COMPANY OPERATORS AND  
ALARM SYSTEM USERS, ADDING TO CHAPTER 5 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF  
THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES.

SECTION 5.45.001 PURPOSE

The City hereby finds and determines that the regulation of alarm systems and the control of false alarms is necessary to promote the health, welfare, and safety of the people in that some users have alarm systems which either mechanically malfunction or are not operated properly by their users, causing an increase in false alarm reports, thereby resulting in unnecessary costs and expense to the City, and constituting a hazard to the safety of police officers and the public in general.

SECTION 5.45.002 DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) "Alarm system" shall mean an assembly of equipment and devices arranged to signal the presence of a hazard requiring attention and to which police are "called upon" to respond.
- (b) "False alarm" shall mean an alarm signal, either silent or audible, necessitating response by the Police Department where an emergency situation for which the alarm system was designed or used does not exist. The activation of an audible alarm system for one second or less shall not be deemed a false alarm.
- (c) "Permittee" shall mean any person holding an alarm system permit issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.
- (d) "Premises" shall mean any building or structure identified by a numerical or lettered address where an alarm system is installed, or group of units within one building or structure with one system.
- (e) "Police Chief and "Police Department shall mean the Police Chief and the Police Department, respectively, of the City.
- (f) "Person" shall mean and include any natural person, partnership, corporation, unincorporated association, or other business entity,

SECTION 5.45.003 REGISTRATION OF ALARM COMPANY OPERATORS

It shall be unlawful for any person required to be registered as an alarm company operator by the California Alarm Company Act to engage in the business of an alarm company operator within the City without first filing a copy of such state license with the Police Department.

SECTION 5.45.004 REGISTRATION OF ALARM AGENTS

It shall be unlawful for any person required to be registered as an alarm agent by the California Alarm Company Act to act as an alarm agent within the City without first registering his name and filing a copy of his State identification card with the Police Department.

SECTION 5.45.005 PERMIT REQUIRED

It shall be unlawful for any person to use, install, or cause to be installed an alarm system on any premises within the city under his control without having an alarm system permit therefor.

When emergency messages, signals, or notices are received by the Police Department that evidence a failure to obtain a permit or comply with any other requirement under this chapter, the Police Chief or his representative is authorized to demand that the owner or lessee of the alarm system initiating such message, signal, or notice, disconnect the alarm system until it is made to comply with said requirements.

**SECTION 5.45.006 PERMIT APPLICATION FORMS**

Any person desiring an alarm system permit shall file an application with the Police Department setting forth the following information:

- (A) The name and address of the applicant;
- (b) The address at which the alarm system is to be installed and used;
- (c) If the applicant is a corporation, the names and addresses of its principal officers;
- (d) If the applicant is a partnership, association, or other business entity, the names and addresses of the partners or persons comprising same;
- (e) A description of the alarm system or system proposed to be installed within the City of Paso Robles, including the manufacturer's name and model number, if any; and
- (f) The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of one or more persons who will be available to secure the premises during any hour of the day or night.

**SECTION 5.45.007 ALARM SYSTEM PERMIT FEE**

Each alarm system permit applicant is required to pay a one-time alarm system permit fee. The amount of the fee shall be specifically set forth and specified by resolution of the City Council. The fee shall be paid at the time the permit application form is submitted. The fee is to cover the cost of the investigation of the facts stated in the application and processing thereof. Such administrative fees shall not be returned to the applicant because they are for service.

**SECTION 5.45.008 ALARM SYSTEM PERMIT ISSUANCE DENIAL**

- (a) **ISSUANCE.** Upon the filing of an application containing all the information required by this chapter, the Police Department shall issue an alarm system permit, unless the provisions of subsection (b) of this section apply.
- (b) **DENIAL.** The following reasons shall be sufficient for the denial of an alarm system permit:
  - (1) That the application is not in the form and does not contain all the information required by the provisions of this chapter; or
  - (2) That the required waiting period following the revocation of an alarm system permit previously issued for the same premises has not expired. See Section 5.45.013.

**SECTION 5.45.009 PERMITS: SEPARATE PERMITS REQUIRED**

A separate alarm system permit shall be required for each of the premises on which an alarm system is used or installed.

SECTION 5.45.010

PERMITS: CORRECTION OF INFORMATION

Whenever any change occurs relating to the written information required by this chapter, the permittee shall give written notice of such change to the Police Department within five (5) days.

SECTION 5.45.011

ALARM SYSTEM REGULATIONS

(a) REPAIRS. After any false alarm caused by a malfunction of an alarm system, the permittee shall cause the alarm system to be repaired to eliminate the malfunction before the reactivation of the alarm system by the permittee.

(b) NOTIFICATION. A permittee shall cause the Police Department to be notified prior to any service, test, repair, maintenance, alteration, or installation of an alarm system which might produce a false alarm.

(c) AUTOMATIC DEACTIVATION. Every audible alarm system shall be equipped with a device which will automatically deactivate the alarm system not more than thirty (30) minutes after the alarm system is activated.

(d) PROHIBITED SOUND. No alarm system shall be installed or used which emits a sound which is similar to that of an emergency vehicle siren or a Civil Defense warning system.

(e) PERMIT DISPLAY. An alarm system permit shall be posted in a conspicuous place upon the premises for which the permit is issued.

(f) POWER SUPPLY. Alarm systems shall be supplied with an uninterruptible power supply in such a manner that the failure or interruption of normal utility electricity will not activate the alarm system. The power supply must be capable of at least four (4) hours of operation.

(g) PROHIBITED SYSTEMS. No person shall have installed any system which when activated automatically dials the Paso Robles Police Department with a pre-recorded message.

SECTION 5.45.012

PERMIT REVOCATION

(a) GROUNDS FOR REVOCATION. An alarm system permit may be revoked by the Police Chief for any of the following reasons:

- (1) Failure to observe any of the regulations or other provisions of this chapter;
- (2) Alarm system for which the alarm system permit is issued emits more than six (6) false alarms during any consecutive three hundred sixty-five day period; or
- (3) False representations were made upon any application or notice of change required by the provisions of this chapter.

(b) NOTICES AND EFFECTIVE DATES. A written notice of revocation stating the reason for such revocation, shall be personally served upon or mailed to the permittee by certified mail addressed to the permittee at the permittee's address shown on the application or the latest notice of change on file with the Paso Robles Police Department. In the event the notice of revocation is mailed, service shall be deemed complete upon deposit in the United States mail. The effective date of the revocation of an alarm system permit shall be fifteen (15) days after the service of a notice of revocation.

(c) SURRENDER OF LICENSES AND DEACTIVATION OF ALARM SYSTEMS. Whenever the revocation of an alarm system permit becomes effective, the permit shall be surrendered forthwith to the Police Department and the alarm system shall forthwith be removed or deactivated.

SECTION 5.45.013

PERMIT REVOCATION: APPEALS

(a) FIRST REVOCATION. No new alarm system permit may be issued for a premises within six (6) months following the first revocation of an alarm system permit previously issued for the same premises unless the premises owner changes or business owner changes, at which time a new permit may be applied for.

(b) SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT REVOCATIONS. No new alarm system permit may be issued for a premises within one (1) year following the second or subsequent revocation of an alarm system permit previously issued for the same premises unless the premises owner changes or business owner changes, at which time a new permit may be applied for.

SECTION 5.45.014

CONFIDENTIALITY

The information contained in alarm system permit applications and notices of change shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed other than to City employees or other public officials who require such information in the performance of their official duties.

SECTION 5.45.015

FALSE ALARM SERVICE FEE

Any person who maintains or has an alarm which has caused any signal, message, or alarm to be transmitted to the Police Department, either by direct telephone or other direct communication, or by communication from an alarm agent, or an alarm business, or by a person responding to an audible alarm, and which is a false alarm, shall pay a false alarm service fee to the City as established by resolution of the City Council. Failure to pay a false alarm service fee within thirty (30) days after issuance of invoice by the City shall cause immediate revocation of alarm service permit.

SECTION 5.45.016

LIMITATION ON LIABILITY

The City is under no obligation of duty to any permittee or any other person by reason of any provision of this chapter, or the exercise of any privilege by any permittee hereunder, including but not limited to any defects in the alarm board at the Police Department, any delay in transmission of an alarm message to any emergency unit, or damage caused by delay in responding to any alarm by any City officer, employee, or agent.

SECTION 5.45.017

CRIMINAL PENALTIES

Any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine not to exceed Five Hundred and no/100ths (\$500.00) Dollars or imprisonment in the County jail not exceeding six (6) months, or by both.

SECTION 5.45.018

APPLICATION OF CHAPTER

Any person who has established, or uses an alarm system which requires a permit under this chapter shall apply for an alarm system permit as provided in this chapter, within six (6) weeks after the effective date of this chapter.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 2nd day of December, 1986, by the following roll call vote;

AYES: Cousins, Ovitt, Dolan, Stemper and Russell

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

  
NICK RUSSELL, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
JERRY BANKSTON, CITY CLERK