

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ISLAND HEIGHTS, OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, ESTABLISHING A FALSE ALARM REDUCTION PROGRAM AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Island Heights, County of Ocean, and State of New Jersey, as follows:

**SECTION 1.** False alarms cost the Borough of Island Heights and its citizens thousands of dollars per year and can take police officers away from actual emergencies. To prevent unnecessary emergency response to false alarms, the within Ordinance is being adopted to reduce the number of false alarms and encourage alarm users to maintain the mechanical reliability of and to properly use their alarm equipment.

**SECTION 2. Definitions.** The following definitions are hereby established:

- a. Definition of a false alarm: A false alarm is the activation of an alarm system through mechanical or electronic failure, malfunction, improper installation, or the negligence of the alarm user, his/her employees or agents, and signals activated to summon law enforcement personnel unless law enforcement response was cancelled by the alarm user or his/her agent before law enforcement personnel arrive at the alarm location. An alarm is false within the meaning of this article when, upon inspection by the Borough of Island Heights Police Department, evidence indicates that no unauthorized entry, robbery, or other such crime was committed or attempted in or on the premises which would have activated a properly functioning alarm system. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a false alarm shall not include an alarm which can reasonably be determined to have been caused or activated by unusually violent conditions of

nature nor does it include other extraordinary circumstances not reasonably subject to control by the alarm user.

- b. Definition of a burglar or fire alarm system: A burglar or fire alarm system is a mechanic or electric system to detect a breach of the system in a home or business or to alert of a fire. To be considered a burglar or fire alarm system it must be connected to the Police Department through a monitoring center contracted by the owner of the system.
- c. Cancellation of false alarm: Someone desiring to cancel a false alarm may do so only through their monitoring center for a breach of their burglar alarm system prior to an officer arriving at the alarm site. Owner shall not dial 911 or contact the Borough of Island Heights Police Department in order to cancel a false alarm.

**SECTION 3. False Alarm Fees.** The following fees are established in connection with a false alarm as herein defined and within a one year period:

- a. First and second false alarm – Will not be billed and no summons will issue.
- b. Third - Fifth false alarms - \$50 per offense.
- c. Sixth and seventh false alarm - \$100 per offense.
- d. Eighth and ninth false alarm - \$250 per offense.
- e. Tenth and subsequent false alarm - \$500 per offense.

**SECTION 4. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.** The violation of any provision of this Ordinance shall be punishable by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00) for each offense. Each and every day a violation of this chapter shall exist shall constitute a separate violation.



**ORDINANCE**

**2011 - 11**

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**NOTICE**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the foregoing ordinance was duly introduced and passed upon first reading at a regular meeting of the governing body of the Borough of Island Heights on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of August 2011. **FURTHER NOTICE** is hereby given that said ordinance was considered for final passage and was adopted after a public hearing thereon, at a regular meeting of said governing body held at the Island Heights Municipal Building, East End & Van Sant Avenues, Island Heights, New Jersey on September 13, 2011.

*Ellie Rogalski*  
Ellie Rogalski, RMC/CMC

COPY TO: HPD / KA  
DATE: 9/14/2011