

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-005

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE IV, (ALARM SYSTEMS), OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA, BY AMENDING SECTION 18-89 (DEFINITIONS) TO ADD CERTAIN DEFINITIONS; AMENDING SECTION 18-90 (AUTOMATIC DIALING DEVICE—INTERCONNECTING TO TRUNKLINES) TO PROVIDE FOR ISSUANCE OF CEASE AND DESIST ORDERS NOTICES; AMENDING SECTION 18-94 (ALARM PERMIT-REQUIRED) TO PROVIDE FOR THE COUNTY'S THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ADMINISTER THE PERMIT PROCESS; AMENDING SECTION 18-95 (SAME-APPLICATION) TO CLARIFY THE APPLICATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS; AMENDING SECTION 18-96 (SAME-TERM; FEE; NONTRANSFERABLE) TO REDUCE THE PERMIT TERM TO ONE YEAR AND PROVIDE SIX MONTH AMNESTY PERIOD FOR REGISTRATION OF PREVIOUSLY NON-PERMITTED ALARM SYSTEMS FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE; AMENDING SECTION 18-97 (SAME-ISSUANCE) TO PROVIDE FOR THE COUNTY'S THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ISSUE PERMITS; AMENDING SECTION 18-98 (EXCESSIVE FALSE ALARM SIGNALS—GENERALLY) TO ESTABLISH INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS AND DUTIES OF ALARM OWNERS AND ALARM COMPANIES; AMENDING SECTION 18-99 (SAME-FALSE ALARM DISPATCH CHARGES; COLLECTION) ESTABLISHING PROCEDURE FOR DETERMINATION OF FALSE ALARM AND NOTICE TO ALARM USER AND/OR RECORD TITLE OWNER; AMENDING SECTION 18-100 (DISBURSEMENT OF SERVICE CHARGES) TO ESTABLISH A REVISED FEE SCHEDULE FOR FALSE ALARMS; RENUMBERING SECTION 18-100 (DISBURSEMENT OF SERVICE CHARGES) TO SECTION 18-101 AND PROVIDING CLARIFICATION REGARDING THE RESPONDING AGENCY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR APPLICABILITY; PROVIDING FOR FILING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION; AND PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of St. Lucie County, Florida, has made the following determinations:

1. On November 17, 1982, the Board adopted Ordinance No. 87-44 which created Chapter 1-2.5, "Alarm Systems", of the St. Lucie County Code of Ordinances and Compiled Laws, to establish standards and regulate intrusion, holdup, and other emergency signals from alarm users which require law enforcement and fire/rescue response or investigation.

2. On August 24, 1999, the Board adopted Ordinance No. 99-10 which amended Chapter 1-2.5 to clarify and strengthen the regulation of alarm systems in the County in order to better serve the residents of the County through more efficient use of law enforcement and fire/rescue services.

3. On August 12, 2014, the Board adopted Ordinance No. 14-020 which amended and recodified the St. Lucie County Code of Ordinances, including the recodification of Chapter 1-2.5 as Article IV (Alarm Systems) of Chapter 18, (Emergency Management and Emergency Services).

4. It is in the best interest of the health, safety and welfare of the County's residents to amend Article VI of Chapter 40 of the County Code of Ordinances to ensure consistency with the requirements of state law and to ensure flexibility in administration of the financing program.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Lucie County, Florida, as follows:

**PART A. Section 18-89 (Definitions) of Article IV (Alarm Systems) of Chapter 18 (Emergency Management and Emergency Services) of the Code of Ordinances of St. Lucie County is amended as follows:**

**Sec. 18-89. Definitions.**

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning: In those cases wherein a word or words are not defined, its definition shall be as found in Black's Law Dictionary, latest edition, or in American Heritage College Dictionary, third edition.

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Alarm means a signal (audio or visual, recorded or live) transmitted to a law enforcement agency or the Fire District indicating a predetermined condition. Said alarm is received either:

(1) Via a private alarm service company relayed to a law enforcement agency or Fire District telephone.

(2) Via an audible/visual signal relayed to a law enforcement agency or Fire District by a third party.

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Alarm permit means a permit issued by the county or its third party alarm administrator allowing the operation of an alarm system within the county.

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~~Alarm system means an assembly of equipment and devices arranged to signal the presence of a hazard requiring urgent attention and to which police or fire are expected to respond. This definition does not include alarm systems on motor vehicles or proprietary systems. If, however, an alarm system on a motor vehicle is connect with an alarm system on a premises (other than a proprietary system), the system is an alarm as defined in this article. This definition also does not include alarm systems that are used only to alert or signal persons within the premises in which the alarm system is located of an attempted unauthorized intrusion or holdup attempt. If such a system however, employs an audible signal emitting~~

~~sounds or a flashing light or beacon designed to signal persons outside the premises, such a system shall be subject to the provisions of this article~~ any assembly of equipment, mechanical or electrical, arranged to:

(1) Signal the occurrence of a forced entry, fire, or other activity requiring urgent attention and to which law enforcement or the Fire District is expected to respond, and/or.

(2) Monitor and/or annunciate the status of alarm or supervisory devices.

~~Alarm user means any person who uses an alarm system at its alarm site or on whose premises an alarm system, as defined in this article is maintained within the county~~ the person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind in control of any building, structure or facility or portion thereof wherein an alarm system is maintained.

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Burglar alarm means an alarm system designated to indicate a condition of illegal forced entry or illegal attempted forced entry.

~~Burglar alarm system refers to an alarm system signaling an entry or attempted entry into the area protected by the system.~~

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County means, St. Lucie County, and for the purposes of this section only shall include the City of Fort Pierce, the City of Port St. Lucie, and the St. Lucie County Fire District, unless otherwise specified.

~~False alarm means the activation of an alarm system through mechanical failure, malfunction, improper installation, or negligence of the owner, user, custodian, or lessee of an alarm system, or his employees or agents that results in dispatch of law enforcement agency or fire district personnel requiring an emergency response, when in fact an emergency does not exist or the activation of the alarm, whether intentional or unintentional.~~ False alarms do not include:

- (1) Alarms caused by hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes or other violent conditions.
- ~~(2) Alarms transmitted because of a water main break or similar causes that occur outside of the protected property.~~
- (3) Alarms covered by F.S. Sections ~~401.44~~ and Section 806.101.
- ~~(4) Alarms transmitted from an occupied residential dwelling unit, except where the alarms is activated as a result of the negligence of the owner, lessee or occupant of the occupied residential dwelling unit.~~

~~Fire alarm means an alarm system designated to indicate the presence of fire or smoke is in progress immediately preceding the alarm.~~

~~Fire alarm systems refers to a signal or message from a person or device indicating the existence of a fire or other emergency which required fire department action and shall mean any devise designed for the detection of the products of combustion, or a system which depends on a manual initiation to inform others of the presence of fire, or both, which device when activated, emits a sound or transmits a signal beyond the premises.~~

~~Fire department means the county fire district.~~

Fire District means the St. Lucie County Fire District.

*Law enforcement agency*, means the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, the City of Fort Pierce Police Department and/or the City of Port St. Lucie Police Department.

*Medical alarm* means an alarm system designated to signal the presence of a hazard requiring urgent attention and to summon emergency medical personnel.

*Record title owner* means the person or persons in whose name title to real property are recorded on the public records.

*Robbery alarm* means an alarm system designated to indicate a robbery (holdup) is in progress immediately preceding the alarm, or the activation of a device designed to signal duress or the activation of a device to signal an ambush is in progress immediately preceding the alarm.

**PART B. Section 18-90 (Automatic dialing device – Interconnecting to trunklines) of Article IV (Alarm Systems) of Chapter 18 (Emergency Management and Emergency Services) of the Code of Ordinances of St. Lucie County is amended as follows:**

**Sec. 18-90. Automatic dialing device—Interconnecting to trunklines.**

(a) No automatic dialing device shall be interconnected to any primary or special trunkline at any law enforcement agency or fire department in the County or the 911 communications center unless under special investigative purposes as authorized by the chief executive of the law enforcement agency, the fire marshal or the public safety director.

(b) If a law enforcement agency has knowledge of the unlawful maintenance of an automatic telephone dialing alarm system installed, or operated in violation of Sec. 18-90(a), it shall, in writing, order the owner, operator or lessee to disconnect and cease operation of the system within seventy-two (72) hours of receipt of the order.

(c) Any automatic telephone dialing system installed as set forth in Sec. 18-90(a), prior to the effective date of Ordinance No. 2015-5 shall be removed within forty-five (45) days of the order as referenced in Sec. 18-90(b).

**PART C. Section 18-94 (Alarm permit-Required) of Article IV (Alarm Systems) of Chapter 18 (Emergency Management and Emergency Services) of the Code of Ordinances of St. Lucie County is amended as follows:**

**Sec 18-94 Alarm permit–Required.**

- (a) ~~No person shall install, maintain, or operate an alarm systems serving a premises or building, or portion thereof, in the unincorporated areas of the county, unless an alarm permit in the form of a decal has been issued hereunder, and is in force, authorizing the use of alarm. For any alarm systems existing prior to the effective date the ordinances from which this article is derived, an alarm permit application shall be made within 60 days of the effective date hereof. It shall be unlawful for any person or company to operate, monitor, or be responsible~~

for an alarm system, without prior registration with law enforcement the entity designated by the County. This shall apply to both commercial and residential systems. A separate permit is required for each alarm site. There is no registration fee.

- (b) ~~Any after the fact permit issued to persons who initially failed to obtain permit shall be issued at twice the cost of the permit fee. Each person or company which operates, monitors, or has responsibility for alarm systems, who notifies the county of an alarm activation, shall at the time of notification, disclose the name, address, telephone number, and permit number of the alarm user to the county.~~
- (c) ~~The alarm permit sticker shall be displayed in a conspicuous location on the main entrance to the building or facility serviced by the alarm.~~

**PART D. Section 18-95 (Same--Required) of Article IV (Alarm Systems) of Chapter 18 (Emergency Management and Emergency Services) of the Code of Ordinances of St. Lucie County is amended as follows:**

**Sec. 18-95. Same--Application.**

~~(a) Information required. Application for alarm permits shall be made to the tax collector on forms provided by the tax collector. The application shall be signed by the alarm user and shall provide the following information:~~ Any person desiring an alarm system permit shall file an application with the county's third party alarm administrator on a form provided by the administrator manually or electronically which includes but is not limited to, the following information:

~~(1) Name, address and telephone number of the alarm user, and, if different, the name, address and telephone number of the person responsible for the proper maintenance and operation of the alarm system and payment of fees assessed under this article. The name and address of the applicant;~~

~~(2) Address and telephone number of the alarm user's premises or building to be served by the alarm. If different than above, the address at which the alarm system is to be installed and used;~~

~~(3) The name, address and telephone number of the persons in charge of the premises or building served by the alarm. If the applicant is a corporation the names and addresses of its principal officers;~~

~~(4) The classification of the alarm system as either commercial or residential. If the applicant is a partnership, association, or other business entity, the names and addresses of the partners or persons comprising the same;~~

~~(5) Whether the building is rented or owner occupied. A description of the alarm system proposed to be installed, including the manufacturer's name and model number, if any;~~

~~(6) For each alarm system at the alarm site, the purposed of the alarm systems, i.e., burglary, hold-up, duress, fire, or other. For residential properties: the names, addresses and telephone numbers of two (2) or more persons who will be available to secure the premises during any hour of the day or night; For commercial properties: the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of three (3) or more persons who will be available to secure the premises during any hour of the day or night;~~

(7) Classification of the alarm site as being equipped or non-equipped for duress alarm. Any such additional information that the County may deem necessary in order to fully and properly administer this chapter.

~~(8) Signed certification from the alarm user and the alarm business stating:~~

- ~~a. The date of installation, conversion or takeover of the alarm system, whichever is applicable.~~
- ~~b. The name, address, and phone number of the alarm business performing the alarm system installation, conversion or alarm system takeover and responsible for providing repair service to the alarm system;~~
- ~~c. The name, address and phone number of the alarm business monitoring the alarm system if different from the installing alarm business;~~
- ~~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; and,~~
- ~~e. That the alarm business has trained the applicant in proper use of the alarm system, including instructions on how to avoid false alarms.~~

~~(b) Amended application. An amended application shall be filed within ten days after any change in the information provided in such application. Upon amendment of ownership or changes in the nature of the system, a new alarm permit shall be required. Whenever any change occurs relating to the information required by this section, the applicant or permittee shall give written notice thereof to the County third party alarm administrator within ten days after such change.~~

~~(c) An alarm system permit may be denied if the application is not in the proper form, does not contain all information, or fees required by this chapter are not paid.~~

~~(d) To the extent allowed by law and in the interest of public safety, all information contained in and gathered through the alarm permit applications, records relating to alarm dispatch requests, and applications for appeals shall be privileged information held in confidence by all employees or representatives of the County and by any third-party administrator or employees of a third-party administrator with access to such information.~~

**PART E. Section 18-96 (Same—Term; fee; nontransferable) of Article IV (Alarm Systems) of Chapter 18 (Emergency Management and Emergency Services) of the Code of Ordinances of St. Lucie County is amended as follows:**

**Sec. 18-96. Same--Term; fee; nontransferable.**

- ~~(a) An alarm permit shall have a term of two years from date of issuance, such term to begin October 1, and end September 30. Any alarm permit issued after October 1 will be valid for the following two years through September 30. Alarm System Permits are issued for a period of one (1) year and will expire 365 days after the date of issuance or renewal, unless otherwise suspended or revoked at an earlier time. Upon expiration of an alarm system permit, a renewal permit must be obtained~~

- (b) in the manner specified by the county before an alarm system may continue in use.
- (c) ~~A fee of \$10.00 shall be charged to the alarm user by the county for each permit issued, including successive renewal permits, to defray the cost of regulation. Alarm permits may not be transferred to another person or alarm site. Permits are valid only for the permittee and address listed on the permit.~~
- (d) ~~Any alarm permit issued pursuant to this article shall not be transferable or assignable and shall cover only one building or premises.~~ An alarm user shall inform the ~~tax collector~~ County's third party alarm administrator of any change that alters any information listed on the permit application within ten working days.
- (e) It is the responsibility of the alarm user to submit a renewal application prior to the permit expiration date. Failure to renew shall be classified as use of a non-permitted alarm system and citations and penalties shall be assessed without waiver.
- (f) Within six (6) months of the effective date of this ordinance any person who has a pre-existing alarm system which was not installed under a permit may obtain an installation permit for the scheduled fee without a penalty.

**PART F. Section 18-97 (Same--Issuance) of Article IV (Alarm Systems) of Chapter 18 (Emergency Management and Emergency Services) of the Code of Ordinances of St. Lucie County is amended as follows:**

**Sec. 18-97. Same—Issuance.**

An alarm permit shall be mailed to the alarm user by the ~~tax collector~~ County's third party alarm administrator at the address of the alarm user sated on the application within ten days after receipt of the completed application by the ~~tax collector~~ County's third party alarm administrator. An alarm permit shall be denied if:

- (a) The requested information is not supplied on the application.
- (b) Material information on the application is incorrect.
- (c) Any person or entity listed on the application as responsible for the installation, maintenance and/or monitoring of the alarm system does not possess any required occupational or regulatory license to conduct such activities unless the person or entity is the alarm user.
- (d) All false alarm dispatch charges for excessive false alarms owed by the alarm user have not been paid.
- (e) The alarm user had an alarm permit for the alarm site suspended or revoked, and the violation causing the suspension or revocation has not been corrected.

**PART G. Section 18-98 (Excessive false alarm signals—Generally) Alarm permit-Required) of Article IV (Alarm Systems) of Chapter 18 (Emergency Management and Emergency Services) of the Code of Ordinances of St. Lucie County is amended as follows:**

**Sec. 18-98. ~~Excessive false alarm signals—Generally.~~ Installation requirements; duty of owners; duties of alarm companies.**

- ~~(a) No person shall allow, permit, cause or fail to prevent the emission, for any reason, by any alarm used by him, or any alarm serving a premises or a building occupied and controlled by such person, of more than three false alarms within any one-year period of time.~~
- ~~(b) The emission of more than three false alarms within any one-year period of time is excessive and constitutes a serious public nuisance, and is subject to false alarm dispatch charges set out in section 18-99.~~
- ~~(c) In the event an alarm system emit five or more false alarms within any one-year period, law enforcement officers shall only respond to panic and/or hold-up alarms from the system until all false alarm dispatch charges pursuant to section 18-99 for the system are paid or otherwise resolved pursuant to section 18-99, and until the alarm user provides written documentation to the sheriff or fire marshal, as appropriate, of inspection, modification, or training as set forth in section 18-93(h) within 30 days of the false alarm dispatch which necessitate such service.~~

(a) Prior to the activation or substantial modification or use of an alarm system, as defined in 18-89, the owner, manager, or lessee of the premises shall furnish to the County's third party alarm administrator on a form provided by the County's third party alarm administrator manually or electronically which includes information deemed necessary to provide adequate response to the alarm.

(b) Owners, managers or lessees of existing alarm systems as defined in Sec. 18-89 shall have thirty (30) days from the effective date of this ordinance to comply with the above notice requirements.

(c) Owners, manager or lessees, or agents of any alarm system shall respond to the alarm location, when requested, in order to reset or deactivate the alarm system within a reasonable time of notification. Failure to provide such access shall result in a false alarm assessment as provided in Sec.18-100.

(d) Prior to the activation or use of any type of general alarm device the owner, manager or lessee of the premises shall furnish to the County's third party alarm administrator, information regarding the full names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least three (3) persons for commercial properties and two (2) persons for residential properties who can be reached at all times and who are authorized and have the capability to enter the premises and deactivate the alarm device. Owners, managers or lessees of the premises with alarm devices already installed shall have thirty (30) days from the effective date of this ordinance to comply with the above notice requirement. It shall be the responsibility of the owner, manager or lessee of the premises to provide an updated list annually to the County's third party alarm administrator. Failure to do so may result in a false alarm assessment subject to the sanctions of Sec. 18-100.

(e) All burglar alarm systems having an audible or visual signal at the premises shall be equipped so as to automatically shut off the audible or visual signal after fifteen (15) minutes, except those systems required by law to have a longer operating period, in which case said system shall be equipped so as to automatically shut off the audible or visual signal at the conclusion of the longer required operating time.

(f) All alarm systems shall be properly maintained. System malfunction due to faulty maintenance shall not be grounds for an excused false alarm assessment.



(g) All alarm systems shall obtain all necessary permits and inspections for the installation of the system.

(h) All alarm companies that sell, lease, install, operate, monitor or have the responsibility for alarm systems, shall maintain the appropriate license as required under Chapter 489, Florida Statutes, and shall register annually with the County. A fine of \$500.00 shall be assessed to any alarm monitoring company who fails to register. Each registration shall be valid for twelve (12) months. The alarm monitoring company shall provide the following information:

(1) Name, street address and telephone number. Monitoring companies shall maintain, for a period of at least one year, records relating to alarm notification and shall provide such records to the County's third party alarm administrator upon request, or a fine of \$125.00 shall be assessed.

(2) The names, street addresses, and telephone numbers of all contracted alarm operators within the territorial jurisdiction of the County.

(3) The procedure used to verify the legitimacy of an alarm prior to notification of County law enforcement.

(4) The name, street address, and telephone number of the alarm company.

(i) An alarm company performing monitoring services shall:

(1) Attempt to verify, by calling the alarm site and/or alarm user by telephone, to determine whether an alarm signal is valid before requesting dispatch. Telephone verification shall require, as a minimum, that a second call be made to a different number, if the first attempt fails to reach an alarm user who can properly identify themselves to attempt to determine whether an alarm signal is valid, except in the case of a panic or robbery-in-progress alarm, or in cases where a crime-in-progress has been verified by video and/or audible means.

(2) Provide alarm user registration number, when available, to the communications center to facilitate dispatch and/or cancellation.

(3) Communicate any available information about the location of the alarms to the communications center.

(4) Communicate a cancellation to the communications center as soon as possible following a determination that a response is unnecessary.

**PART H. Section 18-99 (Same—False alarm dispatch charge; collection) of Article IV (Alarm Systems) of Chapter 18 (Emergency Management and Emergency Services) of the Code of Ordinances of St. Lucie County is amended as follows:**

**Sec. 18—99. ~~Same—False alarm dispatch charge; collection~~ Response to alarms; determination of validity.**

(a) For response to excessive false alarms by law enforcement agencies, the alarm user shall be charged a service fee by the county of \$55.00 for the first alarm in excess of three false alarms in any one-year period, \$80.00 for the second false alarm in excess of three in any one-year

~~period, and \$105.00 for the third and each successive false alarm in excess of three in any one-year period. For response to excessive false alarms by the fire department, the alarm user shall be charged a service fee by the county of \$130.00 for the first alarm in excess of three false alarms in any one-year period, \$155.00 for the second false alarm in excess of three false alarms in any one-year period, and \$205.00 for the third and each successive false alarm in excess of the three in any one-year period. The law enforcement executive or fire marshal shall determine whether a false alarm has occurred and the frequency of such false alarms, and the tax collector or other person designated by the board shall invoice alarm users of amounts owed to the county and shall make demand thereof, pursuant to the provision of this section. Payment of such charges shall be due within ten working days of the date of receipt of the invoice. Payment shall be by money order, certified, check or cash only. In the event an alarm user does not remit payment of the charge in a timely manner as provided herein, the tax collector shall notify the sheriff or the fire marshal, as appropriate, that the charge is past due. The sheriff or the fire marshal, as appropriate, shall then make an effort to collect said charge. In the event the sheriff or fire marshal is unable to collect said charge in a timely manner, the sheriff or fire marshal, as appropriate, shall file a complaint with the county code enforcement division regarding the alarm user's failure to pay the charge in a timely manner. Upon receipt of such complaint, the code enforcement division shall initiate enforcement proceedings in accordance with chapter 2, article II, division 1 and such violations shall be subject to the penalty and enforcement provisions as therein provided in addition to the charges provided in this section. Whenever an alarm is activated in the county, thereby requiring an emergency response to the location by law enforcement and/or the fire district, and the management of the alarm site does not respond, a police officer or firefighter on the scene of the activated alarm system shall visually inspect the area protected by the system and shall exercise reasonable judgment to determine whether the emergency response was in fact required as indicated by the alarm system or whether in some way the alarm system malfunctioned and thereby activated a false alarm.~~

- (b) If a police officer or firefighter at the scene of the activated alarm system determines the alarm to be false, said officer shall make a report of the false alarm, a notification of which shall be mailed or delivered by the third party alarm administrator to the alarm user and/or record title owner at the address on file with law enforcement, advising the alarm user and record title owner of the false alarm.
- (c) Law Enforcement shall have the right to inspect any alarm system on the premises to which a response has been made and they may cause an inspection of such system to be made at any reasonable time thereafter to determine whether it is being used in conformity with the terms of this chapter.
- (d) All false alarm dispatch charges collected as the result of such enforcement shall only be used to offset the costs incurred in responding to false alarms and administration of the alarm systems ordinance.

**PART I. Section 18-100. (Classifying alarms; fees charged) of Article IV (Alarm Systems) of Chapter 18 (Emergency Management and Emergency Services) of the Code of Ordinances of St. Lucie County is amended as follows:**

**Sec. 18-100. Classifying alarms; fees charged.**

(a) For each response by any emergency unit of the County to an alarm the responding agency will file a report, classifying the alarm as one of the following:

- (1) False alarm, system test with no notification or system malfunction.
- (2) False alarms, no system test, no owner response
- (3) Valid alarm for cause designated.

(b) There shall be a fine charged for false alarms according to the following schedule during a rolling twelve month period:

<u>Alarm Within 12 Months</u>	<u>Fire/Rescue</u>	<u>Law Enforcement</u>
<u>First</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
<u>Second</u>	<u>\$200</u>	<u>\$100</u>
<u>Third</u>	<u>\$300</u>	<u>\$200</u>
<u>Fourth</u>	<u>\$500</u>	<u>\$400</u>
<u>Fifth &amp; Subsequent</u>	<u>\$500</u>	<u>\$500</u>

(c) Alarm Companies shall not activate the alarm system prior to the registration. If a false alarm occurs prior to the registration of the alarm permit, the alarm monitoring company will be charged a fine of \$250.00. If the alarm system is self-monitored the alarm user will be charged a fine of \$50.00, which may be waived if the alarm permit is registered within thirty (30) days.

(d) In addition, any person operating a non-permitted Alarm System will be subject to an additional fine of \$50.00. This fee may be waived if the permit is registered in fifteen (15) days.

**PART J. Section 18-100 (Disbursement of service charges) of Article IV (Alarm Systems) of Chapter 18 (Emergency Management and Emergency Services) of the Code of Ordinances of St. Lucie County is amended as follows:**

**Sec. ~~18-100~~101. Disbursement of service charges.**

Service charges will be disbursed to the fine and forfeiture accounts of each responding law enforcement agency and/or the general fund of the county fire district ~~which responded to the false alarm~~ or in a manner as agreed to by all affected agencies. Pursuant to F.S. Section 30.51, all service fees and charges assessed for services of the Sheriff shall be remitted to the county.

**PART K. SEVERABILITY.**

If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, it is the intent of the District that the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are declared severable.

**PART L. FILING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.**

The Clerk is hereby directed forthwith to send a certified copy of this ordinance to the Bureau of Administrative Code and Laws, Department of State, the Capitol, Tallahassee, Florida 32304.

**PART M. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Ordinance shall take effect on October 1, 2015.

**PART N. ADOPTION.**

After motion and second, the vote on this ordinance was as follows:

Chair Paula A. Lewis	AYE
Vice Chair Kim Johnson	AYE
Commissioner Chris Dzadovsky	AYE
Commissioner Tod Mowery	AYE
Commissioner Frannie Hutchinson	AYE

**PART O. CODIFICATION.**

Provisions of this ordinance shall be incorporated in the Code of Ordinances of St. Lucie County, Florida, and the word "ordinance" may be changed to "section," "article," or other appropriate word, and the sections of this ordinance may be renumbered or relettered to accomplish such intention; provided, however, that Parts K through O shall not be codified.

**PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED this 19th day of May, 2015.**

ATTEST:

Deputy Clerk

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

BY:

Chair

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
CORRECTNESS:**

BY:

County Attorney