

AN ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 11, ARTICLE IV OF THE COUNTY OF GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF ORDINANCES SO AS TO CHANGE THE NUMBER OF PERMITTED FALSE ALARMS FROM PER CALENDAR QUARTER TO PER CALENDAR YEAR, TO REQUIRE ALARM SYSTEM MONITORING COMPANIES TO SEND COMPLETED ALARM USER REGISTRATION FORMS AND THE ALARM USER REGISTRATION FEES TO THE GREENVILLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, TO REQUIRE ALARM SYSTEM MONITORING COMPANIES TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE GREENVILLE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SHOWING THE STATUS OF ALARM SYSTEMS LOCATED WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF THE COUNTY, TO PROVIDE FOR GRADUATED INCREASES IN THE CIVIL PENALTIES FOR FALSE ALARMS, AND RELATED MATTERS THERETO.

WHEREAS, the stated purpose of Greenville County Council set forth in Section 11-41 of the County of Greenville, South Carolina Code of Ordinances for enacting the provisions of Section 11, Article IV is "to encourage security alarm users and alarm system monitoring companies to maintain the operational reliability and proper use of security alarm systems in order to reduce unnecessary Sheriff's Office responses to false alarms" thereby facilitating Sheriff's Office resources for legitimate requests for assistance and other law enforcement matters; and

WHEREAS, Greenville County Council finds it necessary to amend the provisions of Chapter 11, Article IV of the County of Greenville, South Carolina Code of Ordinances so as to maintain its stated purpose in enacting the provisions of Section 11, Article IV.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY GREENVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL:

Section 1. Amendment. Section 11-46(b) of the County of Greenville, South Carolina Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows:

“(b) In order to ensure that alarm system users have necessary information properly documented and that violations can be accurately billed and proper notification sent out, all alarm users shall be required to have an alarm user permit issued by the Sheriff's Office. The Alarm User Permit shall be effective so long as the permittee remains at the address that is the subject of the permit. The cost of the alarm user permit shall be \$10.00. The Alarm System Monitoring Company shall obtain the Alarm User Permit Registration form from the Sheriff's Office and shall submit the completed Alarm User Permit Registration form along with the \$10 Alarm User Permit Fee to the Sheriff's Office. The Alarm System User will fully cooperate with the Alarm System Monitoring Company by providing the information required in the Alarm System User Permit Registration form.”

Section 2. **Amendment.** Section 11-47 of the County of Greenville, South Carolina Code of Ordinances is hereby amended so as to add new subsections 2 and 3, which shall read as follows:

“(2) Obtain Alarm System User Permit Registration forms from the Greenville County Sheriff’s Office, have the Alarm System User fill out the required information, and send the completed Alarm System User Permit Registration form, along with the Alarm User Permit Fee, to the Sheriff’s Office;

(3) Submit an annual report for the previous calendar year, no later than February 1st of the following year, that contains the names of the alarm users serviced by the company and the addresses of the protected properties;”

Original subsections (2) through (9) of Section 11-47 shall be renumbered (4) through (11).

Section 3. **Amendment.** Section 11-51(a) of the County of Greenville, South Carolina Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows:

“(a) Every establishment in the unincorporated area of Greenville County having a burglar alarm system shall be entitled to report four (4) false alarms to which the Sheriff’s Office will respond without charge in each calendar year. After four (4) false alarms within a calendar year, all additional false alarms during the calendar year shall be considered a violation of this Ordinance and shall be deemed a civil infraction and the Alarm System User shall be subject to the following fines:

(1) 5-8 False Alarms per calendar year shall be punishable by a fine of \$250 per occurrence, and

(2) 9 or more False Alarms per calendar year shall be punishable by a fine of \$500 per occurrence.”

Section 3. **Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall take effect upon the date of its adoption.

DONE IN REGULAR MEETING THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2016.

Bob Taylor, Chairman
Greenville County Council

ATTEST:

Joseph M. Kernell
County Administrator

Theresa B. Kizer
Clerk to Council

First Reading:

Second Reading:

Public Hearing:

Third Reading: