

AN ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 11, ARTICLE IV OF THE COUNTY OF GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF ORDINANCES SO AS TO REQUIRE AN ALARM SYSTEM MONITORING COMPANY TO ATTEMPT TO VERIFY WHETHER AN ALARM SIGNAL IS VALID BEFORE REQUESTING DISPATCH; TO CHANGE THE NUMBER OF PERMITTED FALSE ALARMS FROM PER CALENDAR QUARTER TO PER CALENDAR YEAR; 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 11-48(1) of the County of Greenville, South Carolina Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows:

“(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, at a minimum, that a second call also known as Enhanced Call Verification, be made to a different number, if the first attempt fails to reach an alarm user who can properly identify themselves to determine whether an alarm signal is valid.”

Section 2. 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 security alarm system shall be entitled to report three (3) False alarms to which the Sheriff’s Office will respond without charge in each calendar year. After three (3) false alarms within a calendar year, all additional false alarms during the calendar year shall be considered a violation of this article and shall be deemed a civil infraction and the alarm system user shall be subject to the following fines:

(1) 4-6 False Alarms per calendar year shall be punishable by a fine of \$250 per occurrence, and

(2) 7 or more False Alarms per calendar year shall be punishable by a fine of \$500 per occurrence.”

Section 3. Severability. If any section, subsection, or clause of this Ordinance shall be deemed to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the remaining sections, subsections, and clauses shall not be affected thereby.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect upon the date of its adoption.

DONE IN REGULAR MEETING THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2017.

Herman G. Kirven, Jr., Chairman
Greenville County Council

Joseph M. Kernell
County Administrator

ATTEST:

Theresa B. Kizer
Clerk to Council

First Reading:
Second Reading:
Public Hearing:
Third Reading: