

ORDINANCE NO. 5164

AN ORDINANCE relating to Electronic Security Devices; prescribing penalties for repetitive false alarms within any calendar month; adding new sections to Ordinance 1952 and K.C.C. 12.32

PREAMBLE:

Many private business and private residences are equipped with security devices. The activation of such devices causes a police response. The police respond assuming a criminal act is in progress. Too often, such devices are activated through the error or omission of citizens. Such occurrences, unless prevented can lead to situations involving potential injury. A police officer assumes that he is confronting a criminal in the act of a crime. Or, based on repeated false alarms, officers may fail to approach an alarm response with caution; when a crime is actually in progress.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

NEW SECTION. SECTION 1. There is added to Ordinance 1952

and K.C.C. 12.32 a new section to read as follows:

False Alarm - Definition. A false alarm shall mean the act of a person, through error or omission, causing any electric, electronic or mechanical security device to activate, resulting in the response of a police unit when in fact no reasonable basis exist for activating such a device.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 2. There is added to Ordinance 1952

and K.C.C. 2.32 a new section to read as follows:

False Alarm - Civil Penalty. Any person who, through error or omission, causes two or more false alarms in any calendar month shall incur a civil penalty. The penalty for the second false alarm, following notice of violation, shall be one hundred and fifty dollars. The penalty for the third false and all subsequent alarms, in a calendar month, following notice of

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1 violation shall be three hundred dollars, for each individual
2 false alarm.

3 NEW SECTION. SECTION 3. There is added to Ordinance 1952
4 and K.C.C. 12.32 a new section to read as follows:

5 Responsibility - Issuance of Notice of Violation, Collection
6 of Civil Penalty. The Department of Public Safety shall be
7 responsible to issue notices of violation to persons following
8 the second and all subsequent false alarms in any calendar
9 month. The Department of Public Safety will notify the King
10 County Comptroller of the charges, fees, and penalties which
11 are to be collected. It shall be the responsibility of the
12 King County Comptroller to collect charges, fees and penalties
13 not properly cancelled and discharged.

14 INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 4th day of
15 August, 19 80.

16 PASSED this 20th day of October, 19 80.

17 KING COUNTY COUNCIL
18 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

19 Bill Reams
20 Chairman

21 ATTEST:

22
23 Jeanette M. Owens
24 DEPUTY Clerk of the Council

25 APPROVED this 31st day of October, 19 80

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27 [Signature]
28 King County Executive
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