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Walla Walla County, WA

ORD

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WALLA WALLA COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 365

APPROVING A REQUEST BY WALLA WALLA COUNTY FOR THE ADOPTION OF A NEW ORDINANCE INTENDED TO DECREASE THE FREQUENCY OF FALSE ALARMS TO THE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, SETTING FORTH THE PURPOSE, ESTABLISHING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS, AND ADDING A NEW CHAPTER 9.30 TO THE WALLA WALLA COUNTY CODE.

Section 1. Addition to Walla Walla Code, resulting in new Chapter 9.30, as follows:

Chapter 9.30

False Alarms to Sheriff's Office

Sections:

- 9.30.010 Purpose
- 9.30.020 Definitions
- 9.30.030 Duty to Maintain Alarm System
- 9.30.040 False Alarms – Civil Infraction/Penalty
- 9.30.050 Enforcement – Process
- 9.30.060 Limitation of Liability

9.30.10 Purpose

This ordinance is an exercise of police power and is promulgated to increase safety and increase the efficiency of providing law enforcement services by reducing the frequency of false alarms within the area of Walla Walla County for which the Walla Walla County Sheriff's office is responsible for responding.

9.30.20 Definitions

Whenever used in this chapter, the following terms shall be defined herein indicated:

- A. **Alarm Monitoring Facility** means any facility that receives signals from alarm systems that indicate emergencies such as fire, burglary, robbery and medical problems, that analyze such signals, and that then sends requests for response to the Walla Walla County Sheriff's dispatch center.



- B. **Alarm System** means detection signaling system that is the combination of interrelated signal initiating devices, signal transmitting devices, signal indicating devices, control equipment, and interconnecting wiring installed for a particular application.
- C. **False Alarm** means request for response received by the Walla Walla County Sheriff's dispatch center from an alarm monitoring facility, which response is subsequently determined to be for reasons other than unlawful entry, attempted unlawful entry, fire, smoke or medical emergency. Alarms resulting from severe environmental conditions are not false alarms.
- D. **Person** means any person, partnership, association, corporation or other entity which installs, maintains, operates or uses an alarm system.

9.30.30 Duty to Maintain Alarm System

It is the duty of every person who owns an alarm system to obtain, maintain, and operate the system so that it will not generate false alarms.

9.30.40 False Alarms – Civil Infraction Penalty

- A. If an alarm or alarm system generates and transmits more than two false alarms to which the Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office has responded in any one-hundred-eighty-day period, the owner of the alarm system shall be liable for a civil infraction penalty of up to \$75.00 (seventy five dollars).
- B. If an alarm or alarm system generated and transmits more than three false alarms to which the Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office has responded in any one-hundred-eighty-day period, the owner of the alarm system shall be liable for a civil infraction penalty of up to \$125 (one hundred twenty five dollars).
- C. If an alarm or alarm system generated and transmits more than four false alarms to which the Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office has responded in any one-hundred-eighty-day period, the owner of the alarm system shall be liable for a civil infraction penalty of up to \$250 (two hundred fifty dollars).

9.30.50 Enforcement – Process

- A. The Walla Walla County Sheriff and his deputies are authorized to enforce the provisions of this chapter.
- B. Notices of civil infractions shall be issued and processed in accordance with the provisions of chapter 7.80 RCW.



9.30.60 Limitation of Liability

This chapter is not intended to create any class of persons to be benefited or protected nor to create any reliance relationship between Walla Walla County and person owning alarm systems. This chapter is not intended to create any duty running in favor of particular persons. The obligations to comply with the provisions of this chapter are upon the person owning the alarm system. Acts or omissions to act by Walla Walla County, its officials or employees under this chapter shall not create any liability on the part of Walla Walla County or its officials or employees.

Section 2. Effective Date. This ordinance is effective November 1, 2008.

Section 3. Savings and Severability. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts of this ordinance.

Publication. This ordinance will be published by an approved summary consisting of the title.

PASSED by the Walla Walla County Board of County Commissioners in regular session at Walla Walla, Washington then signed by its membership and attested by its Clerk in authorization of such passage this 15th day of September, 2008.

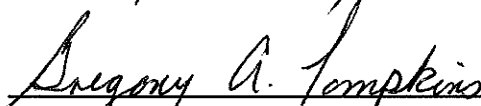
**WALLA WALLA COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**



David G. Carey, Chairman

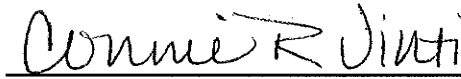


Gregg C. Loney, Member



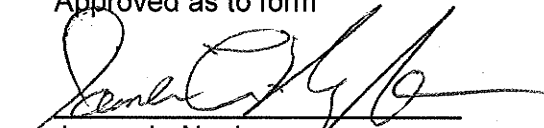
Gregory A. Tompkins, Member

Attest:



Connie R. Vinti, Clerk of the Board

Approved as to form



James L. Nagle
Prosecuting Attorney

