

SEDRO-WOOLLEY FALSE ALARM ORDINANCE

SEDRO-WOOLLEY ORDINANCE NO. 1181

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY, WASHINGTON, PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF BURGLARY AND ROBBERY ALARM SYSTEMS; AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; AND ADDING NEW SECTIONS TO THE SEDRO-WOOLLEY MUNICIPAL CODE.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY, WASHINGTON DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council finds the following facts to exist necessitating the regulation of robbery and burglar alarm systems:

Many businesses, agencies and residences are equipped with security devices designated to detect burglaries and robberies, to alert the police to the incident and cause a police response. Even where those circumstances where property owners do not desire a police response, such response will nonetheless occur because of the nature of the crime involved. The police response may not be waived by the alarm owner. When the police respond to such alarms they will assume that a criminal act is in progress. All too often, however, such devices are activated through the error or omission of citizens. Such occurrences, unless prevented, can lead to situations involving potential injury. For example, a police officer may assume that he is confronting a criminal in the act of a crime when he is responding to a false alarm. Or, based upon repeated false alarms, an officer may fail to approach an alarm response with sufficient caution even though a crime is actually in progress.

Section 2. NEW SECTION. There is hereby added a new section to the Sedro-Woolley Municipal Code to read as follows:

For purposes of this ordinance the term "False Alarm" shall mean the activation of a burglary and/or robbery alarm by other than a forced entry or attempted forced entry into the premises and at a time when no burglary or robbery is being committed or attempted on a premises.

Section 3. NEW SECTION. There is hereby added a new section to the Sedro-Woolley Municipal Code to read as follows:

It is unlawful to have or maintain on any premises a burglary and/or robbery alarm unless there is posted at the main entrance to such premises a prominent notice of the telephone numbers at which the person or persons authorized to enter such premises and turn off such alarm can be reached at all times, or unless such information is on file with the Sedro-Woolley Police Department.

It is unlawful for any person so designated to fail to appear and turn off any such alarm within one hour after being notified by the police to do so.

Section 4. NEW SECTION. There is hereby added a new section to the Sedro-Woolley Municipal Code to read as follows:

It is unlawful for anyone to activate any robbery or burglary alarm for the purpose of summoning police except in the event of an actual or attempted burglary or robbery in progress. It is unlawful for anyone notifying the police of an activated alarm and having knowledge that such activation was apparently caused by an electrical or other malfunction of the alarm system to fail at the same time to notify the police of such apparent malfunction.

Section 5. NEW SECTION. There is hereby added a new section to the Sedro-Woolley Municipal Code to read as follows:

For a police response to any false alarm the Chief of Police shall charge and collect from the person having or maintaining such burglary and/or robbery alarm on premises owned or occupied by him, such person shall pay, fees as follows:

A. For a response to premises at which no other false alarm has occurred within the preceding six month period, hereinafter referred to as a "first response", no fee shall be charged, but the person having or maintaining such a burglary and/or robbery alarm shall within three working days after notice to do so make a written report to the Chief of Police on forms prescribed by him setting forth the cause of such false alarm, the corrective action taken, whether such alarm has been inspected by an authorized service person, and such other information as the Chief of Police may reasonably require to determine the cause of such false alarm and corrective action necessary.

B. For a second response to premises within six months after a first response no fee shall be charged, but a written report shall be required as in the case of a first response and the Chief of Police shall be authorized to inspect or cause to be inspected at owners expense the alarm system at such premises, prescribe necessary corrective action, and shall give notice to the person having or maintaining such alarm system of the conditions and requirements of this section.

C. For a third response to the premises within six months after a second response, and for all succeeding responses within six months of the last response, a fee of \$50.00 shall be charged and if such third false alarm, or any such succeeding false alarm, is as a result of failure to take disconnection of such alarm system and it shall be unlawful to re-connect such alarm system until after such corrective action is taken, provided that no disconnection shall be ordered as to any premises required by law to have an alarm system in operation; and provided no fee shall be assessed if the Chief of Police determines that the cause of the false alarm was lightning, weather, power outage, or other natural disturbance.

Section 6. NEW SECTION. There is hereby added a new section to the Sedro-Woolley Municipal Code to read as follows:

Failure to comply with any of the terms or conditions of this ordinance shall be a crime punishable as set forth in Sedro-Woolley Municipal Code Section 9.86.010.

Section 7. This ordinance shall be effective five (5) days after passage and publication as provided by law.

(Passed and adopted 9/13/93.)