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The Town of Fort Mill has implemented a False Alarm Ordinance for all types of alarm systems: fire, carbon monoxide, burglar, robbery, etc. This ordinance becomes effective on October 1, 2016. This ordinance was enacted to help reduce the number of false alarms that the fire department and police department respond to.

A “False Alarm” means the activation of any type of alarm system through inadvertence, electrical, or mechanical failure, malfunction, improper installation, improper maintenance, or the negligence of the owner, lessee, or anyone otherwise in control of the system, or of his/her employees or agents, resulting in a response by Fort Mill public safety personnel. **An alarm is false when** the responding public safety official determines there is no evidence of the existence of a condition or activity the alarm is designed to detect when the alarm is activated. **Excluded from a false alarm** are violent conditions of nature, other extraordinary conditions beyond the control of the alarm user, or situations of unauthorized tampering with an alarm system.

Notable Items:

- Ordinance becomes effective October 1, 2016
- A property key holder must respond within 30 minutes once notified by the responding public safety official. Failure to respond within 30 minutes will result in \$100.00 charge regardless of the number of alarm activations and this applies to every alarm activation.
- There is no charge for the first 2 false alarms each year starting on October 1 and ending on September 30.
- False Alarms 3, 4, and 5 of the year will each result in a \$50.00 charge.
- False Alarms 6 and 7 of each year will each result in a \$100.00 charge.
- False Alarms 8 and 9 of each year will each result in a \$200.00 charge.
- False Alarms 10 or greater each year will each result in a \$500.00 charge.
- 1 charge may be waived per year with evidence of a repair of a malfunctioning system from a licensed alarm business within 10 days of date of notification of the infraction.
- Payment of a charge are due within 30 days. After 30 days a late penalty of \$25.00 is assessed. Charges not paid after 60 days will be referred to the courts.
- False alarm infractions may be appealed to the Town Manager in writing within 10 days of the date of notification of the charge.