

Intro. Res. No.1928-2015
Introduced by Presiding Officer on request of the County Executive

Laid on Table 11/17/2015

**RESOLUTION NO. 1123 -2015, ADOPTING LOCAL LAW
NO. 42 -2015, A LOCAL LAW ADOPTING A REQUIREMENT
FOR THE REGISTRATION OF ALARM SYSTEMS**

WHEREAS, there was duly presented and introduced to this County Legislature at a meeting held on November 17, 2015, a proposed local law entitled, "**A LOCAL LAW ADOPTING A REQUIREMENT FOR THE REGISTRATION OF ALARM SYSTEMS;**" now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the said local law be enacted in form as follows:

LOCAL LAW NO. 42 -2015, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK

**A LOCAL LAW ADOPTING A REQUIREMENT FOR THE
REGISTRATION OF ALARM SYSTEMS**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF
SUFFOLK;** as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Intent.

This Legislature finds that the primary function of the Suffolk County Police Department is to ensure the safety of the residents of Suffolk County.

This Legislature also finds and determines that alarm systems within the County serve an important role in assisting the Police Department in ensuring the safety of its residents, however there has been a lack of consistency in the information provided to the Police Department regarding such alarms for both residences and businesses.

This Legislature further finds that there has been a dramatic increase in the number of false alarms made to the Police Department over the last several years and that in 2014 alone there were over 90,000 false alarms. This excessive amount of false alarm calls has caused a burden on the Police Department's resources.

Therefore, the purpose of this law is to require alarm systems to be permitted by the Police Department in order for the Police Department to be able to maintain such information necessary for the Police Department to respond to calls more efficiently, as well as to provide a mechanism to discourage and reduce the number of false alarms made to the Police Department by implementing fees for false alarms.

Section 2. Amendments.

Chapter 290 of the SUFFOLK COUNTY CODE is hereby amended to create a new article as follows:

CHAPTER 290: ALARMS

Article II: Permits

§ 290-6. Definitions.

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

ALARM OWNER

Any person, corporation, company, partnership or joint venture who or which owns, leases, rents, uses or makes available for use by his/her or its agents, employees representatives or family any alarm system. An Alarm Owner shall not include any governmental entity.

ALARM COMPANY

Any person, corporation, company, partnership or joint venture engaged in selling leasing, installing, servicing or monitoring Alarm Systems that is licensed in accordance with New York State law.

ALARM SYSTEM

Any device, system or instrument, whether known as a burglary, robbery or intrusion alarm, direct-dial telephone device, audible or silent or by any other name, which is designed or maintained or intended to detect an unauthorized entry into any building, structure, facility, or any designated portion thereof, or designed to signal the commission of an unlawful act or any other emergency, regardless of whether or not such device is connected to any telephone line that is dialed upon its activation. Any device installed by a telephone company to protect telephone company systems which might be damaged or disrupted by the use of an alarm system is not included in this definition.

COMMISSIONER

The Commissioner of the Suffolk County Police Department.

DEPARTMENT

The Suffolk County Police Department.

FALSE ALARM

An alarm signal to the Department activated by causes or events other than the commission or attempted commission of an unlawful act or emergency which the Alarm System is designed to detect. This shall include, but not be limited to, mechanical failure, accidental tripping, misoperation, malfunction, misuse or neglect of the Alarm System, but shall not include alarms caused by earthquakes, high winds, verifiable utility failures or external causes beyond the control of the Alarm Owner.

NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

Any improved property consisting of a building or structure that is not a Residential Building.

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

Any improved property consisting of a building or structure designed and occupied exclusively for residential purposes by not more than two families.

SUFFOLK COUNTY POLICE DISTRICT

The geographical area under the jurisdiction of the Suffolk County Police Department, as defined in Article XIII of the Suffolk County Charter.

§ 290-7. Requirements for Permit/Transferability.

A. No Alarm Owner shall operate an Alarm System within the Suffolk County Police District without first obtaining a permit for such Alarm System from the Department. All permits issued by the Department shall be issued a unique permit number.

B. It shall be the duty of the Alarm Owner to obtain an application for a permit from the Department prior to operation. Such application shall be submitted in a form, manner, and containing such information as is required by the Department, including, but not limited to, whether the property is a Residential Building or a Non-Residential Building, along with the non-refundable permit fee.

C. Upon receipt of a permit number from the Department, an Alarm Owner shall provide such permit number to an Alarm Company, if any.

D. A permit for an Alarm System issued to an Alarm Owner may not be transferred to another alarm user or transferred to any other Residential Building or Non-Residential Building owned, leased, rented, used or available for use of the permitted Alarm Owner.

§290-8. Annual Fee Requirement.

A. No permit, or any renewal thereof, shall be issued by the Department, until payment is received from the Alarm Owner.

B. All permits issued by the Department shall expire after one (1) year from the date of issuance, and are required to be renewed on an annual basis. The Department shall notify an Alarm Owner electronically or in writing sixty (60) days in advance of a renewal, however, it shall be the duty of the Alarm Owner to submit a renewal application prior to the expiration date of any permit issued by the Department. Such renewal application shall contain such information as is required by the Department.

C. The annual fee, and all renewals thereof, for an Alarm System permit shall be fifty dollars (\$50) for a Residential Building and one hundred dollars (\$100) for a Non-Residential Building.

D. Failure of an Alarm Owner to pay a renewal fee prior to the date of expiration of a permit shall result in a late fee in the amount of twenty five dollars (\$25), in addition to the amount of the renewal fee. In the event an Alarm Owner fails to pay the renewal fee within thirty (30) days of expiration, the permit shall be deemed expired and the Alarm Owner shall be required to obtain a new permit in accordance with this Article. An Alarm Owner who has allowed his/her permit to expire and receives a notification of a False Alarm without obtaining a new permit, shall be subject to the False Alarm fees set forth in section 290-9(B) below.

§290-9. False Alarm Fees.

A. A permitted Alarm Owner shall be subject to warnings and fees for False Alarm notifications issued by the Department for each occurrence of a False Alarm occurring within any one year of the anniversary date of the issuance of the permit, in accordance with the following graduated schedule:

Residential Building

1. Written Warning only.

2. Written Warning only.
3. \$100
4. \$150
5. \$200
6. \$250
7. \$300
8. \$350
9. \$450
10. \$500

Non-Residential Building

1. Written Warning only
2. Written Warning only
3. \$150
4. \$200
5. \$250
6. \$500
7. \$500
8. \$500
9. \$500
10. \$500

B. An Alarm Owner that has failed to procure a permit from the Department as required by section 290-8 above shall be subject to fees different from a permitted Alarm Owner for False Alarm notifications issued by the Department occurring within twelve consecutive months calculated from the date of the first instance of a false alarm occurrence, in accordance with the following graduated schedule:

Residential Building

1. \$100
2. \$150
3. \$200
4. \$250
5. \$300
6. \$350
7. \$400
8. \$500
9. \$500
10. \$500

Non-Residential Building

1. \$200
2. \$250
3. \$300
4. \$300
5. \$500
6. \$550
7. \$600
8. \$650
9. \$750

10. \$750

C. More than one False Alarm within twenty four (24) hours shall be counted as one (1) occurrence.

D. An Alarm Owner shall be given written notice by the Department of any fees chargeable by the Department for False Alarms under this section. An Alarm Owner shall pay all demanded fees within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of the notice unless an Alarm Owner requests an appeal in accordance with section 290-10 below. Failure of an Alarm Owner to pay a False Alarm fee when due shall result in a late fee in the amount of twenty-five dollars (\$25) and fifty dollars (\$50) for amounts due and owing past sixty (60) days.

§290-10. Appeals.

A. Any person or entity that receives a notice of False Alarm fees or any other fines or fees due under this Article may appeal such fines or fees by filing a notice of appeal in such form as provided by the Department, with the Commissioner within thirty (30) days receipt of the notice. The Commissioner shall make a determination on the appeal within sixty days (60) of receipt. All final written determinations of the Commissioner shall be appealable in accordance with Article 78 of the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules.

§290-11. Rules and Regulations.

The Commissioner shall have the power to promulgate, amend and/or repeal rules and regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this Article as may be necessary with respect to the form and content of applications Alarm System permits, appeals processes, for the reception thereof, and for other matters incidental or appropriate to carry out the proper administration and enforcement of this Article. A copy of all rules and regulations promulgated and any amendments thereto shall be filed in the office of the Clerk of the County Legislature.

§290-12. Confidentiality of Records.

Any and all records prepared, created, and maintained by the Department in connection with this Article shall be kept confidential and exempt from disclosure in accordance with and under the provisions of the NEW YORK PUBLIC OFFICERS LAW.

Section 3. Applicability.

This law shall apply to all actions occurring on or after the effective date of this law.

Section 4. Severability.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or part of this law, or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgment shall be rendered.

Section 5. SEQRA Determination.

This Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this law constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21) and/or (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection. The Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this law.

Section 6. Effective Date.

This law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

[] Brackets denote deletion of language.
___ Underlining denotes addition of new language.

DATED: December 15, 2015

APPROVED BY:

/s/Dennis M. Cohen
Chief Deputy County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: December 21, 2015

After a public hearing duly held on December 21, 2015
Filed with the Secretary of State on December 23, 2015