

**CORNWALL POLICE SERVICES BOARD
FALSE ALARM REDUCTION
BY-LAW NO. 1, 2000**

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BEING A BY-LAW of the Cornwall Police Services Board establishing a policy for the registration of alarm systems and reduction of false alarms.

WHEREAS the Cornwall Police Services Board is responsible for the provision of police services in the City of Cornwall;

AND WHEREAS The Police Services Board may, by By-Law, make rules for the effective management of the police force, pursuant to section 31 (6) of The Police Services Act;

AND WHEREAS The Police Services Board may pass By-Laws imposing fees or charges for services or activities provided by or on behalf of it, pursuant to section 220.1(2) of The Municipal Act, as amended by The Savings and Restructuring Act, 1996;

AND WHEREAS the number of false alarms in Cornwall has been identified as consuming a significant quantity of police resources which could be better directed to enhancing the police presence in the community;

AND WHEREAS the registration of Alarms Systems is an integral part of the strategy to reduce the number of false alarms in the City of Cornwall and to enhance officer safety;

NOW THEREFORE The Cornwall Police Services Board enacts as follows:

DEFINITIONS

1. In this by-law:
 - a) **“Board”** means The Cornwall Police Services Board;
 - b) **“Alarm Administrator”** means the person appointed by the Chief of Police pursuant to Section 6 of this By-Law;
 - c) **“Chief of Police”** means the Chief of Police of the Cornwall Police Service, or his or her designate;
 - d) **“Police Service”** means the Cornwall Police Service;

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- e) **“Alarm System”** means any mechanical or electrical device which is designed to be activated manually or automatically upon the detection of an unauthorized entry, intrusion, or other emergency in or on any building, structure, facility or premises through the emission of a sound or transmission of a signal or message, but does not include a device that is installed in a “motor vehicle” or “motor home,” as those terms are defined in the Highway Traffic Act, or a financial institution during regular business hours.
- f) **“False Alarm”** means any activation of an Alarm System, intentionally or unintentionally, including activation caused by the malfunction of the alarm system, which causes the unnecessary response of the police;
- g) **“Automatic Dialing Service”** means an alarm system which automatically dials a specific telephone number and transmits an emergency message by a recording over regular telephone lines when activated.
- h) **“Alarm User”** means a person who uses an alarm system to protect any building, structure, facility or premises;
- i) **“Alarm Agency”** means a person who, for hire or other reward
 - a) sells or supplies or installs or offers to install alarm systems;
 - b) monitors alarms systems by means of a monitoring device; located in Canada and having an office or service representative in the Cornwall area (30 minutes travel time);
 - c) repairs or maintains alarm systems that are installed on the property of another;

PROHIBITIONS

- 2. No person shall use, maintain or install, or permit the use, maintenance or installation of any alarm system utilizing an automatic dialing device which dials any telephone number assigned to the Cornwall Police Service.

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3.
 - a) No alarm user in the City of Cornwall shall have in use, install, operate or maintain an alarm system without registration under this By-Law.
 - b) No alarm user or alarm agency shall own, install, sell, operate or maintain an alarm system that issues an outside audible alarm for more than five (5) minutes.
4. Effective March 1, 2001, no outside audible alarms can be operational for structures over 2,000 square feet. Existing large commercial structures will have until July 1, 2001, to disconnect all outside audible alarms.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Alarm Registration

5. The Chief of Police shall establish an Alarm System Registry.
6. There shall be an Alarm Administrator who shall be appointed by the Chief of Police. The Alarm Administrator shall maintain and administer the Alarm System Registry and carry out such other duties in respect of this By-Law, as assigned by the Chief of Police.
7. Every owner or occupant ("Applicant") of premises on which is installed an Alarm System shall apply to have that Alarm System registered with the Police Service on the form provided for that purpose by the Chief of Police. Every application for registration, in writing and signed by the proposed alarm user, shall contain the names, address and telephone numbers of:
 - a) an alarm monitoring company; and
 - b)
 - i) for small and large commercial - at least three persons who may be contacted in the event of an alarm system activation;
 - ii) for residential - at least two persons who may be contacted in the event of an alarm system activation;
8. The alarm monitoring company or the persons whose names are provided pursuant to subsection 7(b) shall be:
 - a) available to receive telephone calls from the police in the event of an Alarm Incident;

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- b) able to attend at the address of the Alarm Incident within thirty minutes of being requested to do so by the police;
 - c) capable of affording police access to the premises where the Alarm System is installed; and
 - d) capable of operating the Alarm System and able to safeguard the premises.
9. a) The Applicant shall ensure that the information required by section 7 is accurate and shall notify the Alarm Administrator forthwith, in writing, of any changes in the information.
- b) Alarm Agencies shall remit to the Alarm Administrator for the Cornwall Police Service, on a yearly calendar basis, an updated keyholder information listing.
10. Every registration under this By-Law is personal and specific to the alarm user, the alarm system, and the premises upon which the system is installed. In the event of a change of an alarm user, alarm system, or premises, the registration shall be conclusively deemed to be revoked without further notice. The new alarm holder must make application for registration.
11. Upon receipt of the completed application and payment of the prescribed fee, the Alarm Administrator shall cause the Security Alarm System to be entered on the Police Service's Alarm Registry and shall issue an Alarm Registration Receipt. The prescribed registration fee is set out in Schedule "A" to this By-Law.

PENALTY AND ENFORCEMENT

12. Any alarm agency or alarm user who contravenes Sections 2, 3 or 4 of this By-Law, is guilty of an offence and is liable, upon conviction, to a fine not exceeding two thousand (\$2,000.00) dollars, exclusive of costs, for each offence, recoverable under the Provincial Offences Act.
13. The Cornwall Police Service will not be required to respond to alarms given by alarm systems of alarm users not registered under this By-Law.
14. The Cornwall Police Service will not be required to respond to alarms from alarm monitoring agencies not located in Canada and not having an office or service representative in the Cornwall area.

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15. Where the Police Service is required to attend at a building, structure or premises as a result of an Alarm Incident that is a false alarm, the following shall apply:

INCIDENT	RESIDENTIAL/ SMALL COMMERCIAL (less than 2,000 sq.ft.)	LARGE COMMERCIAL (over 2,000 sq.ft.)
For the <u>first</u> false alarm in the calendar year	<u>NO FEE</u> <u>(warning letter issued)</u>	<u>NO FEE</u> <u>(warning letter issued)</u>
<u>For the second</u> false alarm in the same calendar year	<u>\$25.00 fee</u>	<u>\$50.00 fee</u>
<u>For the third</u> false alarm in the same calendar year	<u>\$50.00 fee</u>	<u>\$100.00 fee</u>
<u>For the fourth and subsequent</u> false alarms in the same calendar year	<u>SUSPENSION</u> <u>Reinstatement upon:</u> <u>1. Payment of</u> <u>reinstatement fee of</u> <u>\$150.00; and;</u> <u>2. Letter is provided by the</u> <u>alarm user to the Alarm</u> <u>Administrator, stating that</u> <u>the system has been</u> <u>upgraded.</u>	<u>SUSPENSION</u> <u>Reinstatement upon:</u> <u>1. Payment of</u> <u>reinstatement fee of</u> <u>\$150.00; and;</u> <u>2. Letter is provided by the</u> <u>alarm user to the Alarm</u> <u>Administrator, stating that</u> <u>the system has been</u> <u>upgraded.</u>

16. Where any fee pursuant to paragraph 15 remains unpaid for thirty (30) days or more, the Chief of Police shall forthwith, by forwarding a registered letter, revoke the registration issued under paragraph 7, without further notice to the alarm user, and paragraph 13 shall thereafter apply to the alarm user.
17. This By-Law is not to be construed at any time in such a fashion as to hold the Police Service or its officers liable for failing to ensure that persons comply with the provisions of this By-Law.

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18. The Cornwall Police Services Board By-Law 58, 1991 is hereby repealed.
19. This By-Law shall come into force and take effect on the date of the passing thereof.

DATED AT CORNWALL, this 10th day of August, 2000.

Signed Brian Sylvester
VICE-CHAIR

Signed Gail Sliter
SECRETARY

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SCHEDULE “A”

FEE SCHEDULE

REGISTRATION

Residential	\$ 20.00
Small commercial (under 2,000 square feet)	\$ 20.00
Large commercial (over 2,000 square feet)	\$ 50.00