

CITY OF ST. ALBERT

BYLAW 25/2002

A Bylaw to Regulate Alarm Systems.

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WHEREAS Section 7 of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. M-26, provides that a Council may pass bylaws for municipal purposes respecting the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property and services provided by or on behalf of the municipality.

AND WHEREAS the Council of the City of St. Albert considers it necessary and desirable to regulate Alarm Systems being used in the City.

AND WHEREAS the Council of the City deems it necessary to include in the regulation of Alarm Systems the collection of a Response Fee from users of Alarm Systems which generate False Alarms in order to assist in reducing the costs, to the City, of False Alarms that require a response from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The Council of the City of St. Albert, duly assembled, hereby ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

Title

1. This Bylaw may be referred to as the "Alarm Systems Bylaw".

Definitions

2. In this Bylaw:

(a) "Alarm System" means any device designed to activate an alarm signal upon detecting:

- (i) an unauthorized entry to a building or onto property, or
- (ii) an emergency within a building or at a property;

(b) "Alarm System Permit" means a permit issued for an Alarm System under this Bylaw;

(c) "Calendar Year" means the period from January 1 to and including December 31 of each year;

(d) "City" means the municipal corporation of the City of St. Albert or, where the context so requires, the area contained within the boundaries of the City;

(e) "City Manager" means the chief administrative officer of the City of St. Albert;

(f) "Council" means the municipal council of the City of St. Albert;

(g) "False Alarm" means an alarm signal generated by an Alarm System which results in the attendance by the R.C.M.P. at a building or property where no unauthorized entry has occurred or been attempted and no emergency exists. Without limiting the generality of this definition, a False Alarm includes circumstances where the Alarm System has been activated as a result of:

- (i) testing,
- (ii) mechanical failure, malfunction or faulty equipment, or
- (iii) inadvertence, mistake, omission or negligence.

- (h) "Manager" means the individual appointed by the City Manager to be responsible for the administration of this Bylaw, and in the event no individual is so appointed, the City Manager;
- (i) "Member in Attendance" means a member of the R.C.M.P. that attends at a building or property at which an alarm signal has been activated;
- (j) "Permit Fee" means the amount so specified in Schedule "A";
- (k) "Permit Holder" means a person issued an Alarm System Permit;
- (l) "Re-Instatement Fee" means the amount so specified in Schedule "A";
- (m) "Response Fee" means the fee required to be paid by a Permit Holder to the City as a result of a False Alarm at a building or property;
- (n) "R.C.M.P." means the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (St. Albert Detachment).

#### Requirement for a Permit

- 4. No person shall install or use, or permit to be installed or used, an Alarm System in or on any building or property unless the person is a Permit Holder.

#### Issuance of an Alarm System Permit

- 5. (1) The Manager shall issue an Alarm System Permit upon receipt of a completed application and payment of the Permit Fee.
- (2) The Alarm System Permit shall be issued:
  - (a) in the name or names of the person or persons listed as the applicant on the application; and
  - (b) for the specific building or property listed on the application.

#### Determination of the Occurrence of a False Alarm

- 6. The determination of whether or not a False Alarm has occurred shall be made by the Member in Attendance.

#### Response Fee

- 7. (1) When the Member in Attendance determines that a False Alarm has occurred, the Permit Holder for the Alarm System that has activated the False Alarm shall pay a Response Fee to the City. The Response Fee shall be due and payable to the City thirty (30) days after the date that the Response Fee is invoiced by the City.
- (2) Notwithstanding Section 7(1), a Permit Holder shall not be charged a Response Fee if the False Alarm is the first False Alarm generated by the Permit Holder's Alarm System during the Calendar Year.

#### Cancellation of an Alarm System Permit

- 8. An Alarm System Permit is automatically canceled if:
  - (a) the Permit Holder is no longer the person who is in physical possession of the building or property for which the Alarm System was installed; or
  - (b) the Permit Holder no longer has responsibility for and control over the building or property for which the Alarm System was installed; or

- (c) the Alarm System is relocated to a building or property not specified on the Alarm System Permit.
9. An Alarm System Permit is automatically revoked if:
- (a) the Alarm System generates three (3) or more False Alarms within a six (6) month period; or
- (b) the Permit Holder has failed to pay the Response Fee within thirty (30) days of being invoiced by the City.
10. The Manager shall notify a Permit Holder that their Alarm System Permit has been revoked.

#### Reinstatement of an Alarm System Permit

11. An Alarm System Permit that has been cancelled or revoked may be reinstated upon application by the Permit Holder if:
- (a) the Permit Holder pays the Re-Instatement Fee; and
- (b) the Permit Holder has paid any and all outstanding Response Fees if the revocation was pursuant to Section 9(b).
12. If an Alarm System Permit is reinstated pursuant to Section 11(a), the Alarm System Permit shall not be cancelled pursuant to Section 9(a) unless there have been three (3) False Alarms since the Alarm System Permit was reinstated.

#### Offences

13. A person who contravenes Section 4 is guilty of an offence and shall pay the penalty specified in Schedule "A".

#### Violation Tickets

14. Where a Peace Officer or Bylaw Enforcement Officer has reasonable grounds to believe a person has committed an offence under this Bylaw, he or she may serve on such person an offence ticket allowing payment of the specified penalty to the City.
15. This Bylaw, except for Sections 7 and 13, shall come into force and effect on March 1, 2003.
16. Sections 7 and 13 of this Bylaw, shall come into force and effect on July 1, 2003.

READ a first time this 2nd day of December, 2002.

READ a second time this 16th day of December, 2002.

READ a third time this 16th day of December, 2002.

SIGNED AND PASSED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2002.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE OFFICER

SCHEDULE "A" - TO BYLAW 25/2002

**PERMIT FEES**

March 1, 2003 to and including June 30, 2003

- Residential Building \$ 0.00
- Any other type of Building or Property \$ 0.00

On or after July 1, 2003

- Residential Building \$ 30.00
- Any other type of Building or Property \$ 30.00

**RE-STATEMENT FEE**

\$ 300.00

**RESPONSE FEE**

- False Alarm in a Residential Building \$ 75.00
- False Alarm in a Commercial or other type of Building or Property up to 500 sq. m. in size \$ 100.00
- False Alarm in a Commercial or other type of Building or Property over 500 sq. m. in size \$ 150.00

**PENALTIES**

- Installing or using an Alarm System without an Alarm System Permit \$ 300.00