

VILLAGE OF DOWNERS GROVE
Report for the Village
11/5/2019

SUBJECT:	SUBMITTED BY:
Fire Alarm Systems Ordinance Amendment	Jeffrey Pindelski Fire Chief

SYNOPSIS

An Ordinance has been prepared amending the Fire Alarm Systems Requirements making it mandatory that all systems be wireless.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

The goals for 2017-2019 includes, *Stewards of Financial Sustainability* and *Exceptional Municipal Services*.

FISCAL IMPACT

This amendment eliminates the need for future replacement of outdated alarm monitoring equipment as well as multiple telephone lines needed to operate the system. The Village will save approximately \$8,000 a year with this amendment.

RECOMMENDATION

Approval on the November 12, 2019 active agenda.

BACKGROUND

The Village of Downers Grove owns and operates a fire alarm monitoring system and requires businesses to maintain a fire alarm that is monitored by the emergency dispatch center. The purpose of the system is to alert the Village when an alarm activates, signaling a fire or smoke condition at the business. The Village currently monitors 903 fire alarms.

In [2014](#) the Village began a campaign to switch fire alarm monitoring from digital to wireless in an effort to replace outdated equipment as well as use technology to decrease the number of false alarm activations. Since 2014, there has been no requests for digital alarm connections to the Village's monitoring system and the cost of standard telephone lines used by the Village in operating the digital system has increased exponentially. Presently there are only three alarms that have not converted to the wireless system and the Village is working the owners to have them converted. This amendment will result in lower costs to both the Village as well as alarm users while providing a system that is more efficient and reliable.

ATTACHMENTS

Ordinance

Alarm

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ALARM SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

BE IT ORDAINED by the Village Council of the Village of Downers Grove in DuPage County, Illinois, as follows: (Additions are indicated by **shading**/underline; deletions by ~~strikeout~~):

Section 1. That Section 17.56. is hereby amended to read as follows:**17.56. Connection to Village System--application; obligation of owner.**

(a) Where the Downers Grove Municipal Code requires a property owner to connect to the Village System, the property owner shall complete an application form as provided under this Article, shall obtain and maintain a connection in his or her name, and shall be responsible for compliance with the terms of this Article with regard to all applications, requirements, and fees associated with connection to the Village System.

(b) Where the Downers Grove Municipal Code does not require a property owner to connect to the Village system, the property owner may voluntarily request connection. The property owner shall complete an application form as provided under this Article, shall obtain and maintain a connection in his or her name, and shall be responsible for compliance with regard to all applications, requirements and fees associated with connection to the Village System.

(c) Commercial Alarm Systems shall have a single wireless radio connection¹; ~~or if connecting via telephone line, it shall have two alarm POTS telephone lines. One line shall be designated solely for the Alarm System and cannot be used for any other purpose. The secondary telephone line is for system redundancy and it can be used for voice communications, but it shall not have any devices installed on it such as electronic devices, computers, fax machines or modems.~~

(d) Residential alarm systems may have a single wireless connection¹; ~~or if connecting via telephone line, may operate with a single POTS telephone line that can be used for voice communications, but it shall not have any devices installed on it such as electronic devices, computers, fax machines or modems.~~

Section 2. That Section 17.58. is hereby amended to read as follows:**17.58. Alarm system requirements for connection.**

Alarm System connections to the Village System shall be made only after compliance with the following requirements:

- (a) Connection shall not overburden or otherwise interfere with the operation of the Village System.
- (b) The Alarm System shall be installed according to the manufacturer's specifications.
- (c) Alarm Systems shall be compatible, as determined by the Fire or Security Alarm Coordinator, with the Village System
- (d) ~~The Alarm User shall make arrangements with the company installing the Alarm System and with their telephone service provider for a POTS telephone line(s) from the property to the Village System, if necessary.~~
- ~~(e) For security Alarm Systems, mechanisms shall be adjusted so that an alarm signal will sound for no longer than ten (10) minutes after being activated.~~

(~~f~~) For fire Alarm Systems, the Alarm User shall purchase and install a standard security lock box in the manner and location prescribed by the Fire Alarm Coordinator and containing keys to all entrances and exits to the building to allow immediate access in emergency situations. All lock boxes shall have reflective striping for visibility. At the request of the Alarm User, the Fire Alarm Coordinator may permit the

Alarm

installation of a security lock box tamper switch connected to a security Alarm System; however, no such connection to the fire Alarm System shall be allowed.

(~~gf~~) For fire Alarm Systems, the following standards and guides as adopted by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) are adopted by reference as the standards for the installation, maintenance and testing of fire Alarm Systems:

(1) NFPA 72 Standard for the Installation, Maintenance and use of Protective Signaling Systems current Edition, as amended.

(~~hg~~) The Fire Alarm Coordinator shall inspect the property prior to connection and make a written finding as to whether the above requirements have been met. For fire Alarm Systems required to be installed by the Downers Grove Municipal Code, the inspection shall be a prerequisite for the final occupancy permit given by the building official of the Village for new construction or remodeling of buildings. (Ord. No. 2183, § 1; Ord. No. 2681)

Section 3. That Section 17.64. is hereby amended to read as follows:

17.64. Automatic Dialer alarm prohibited.

(a) No person shall install, or cause to be installed, or maintain any Automatic Dialer Alarm in the Village.

Any Automatic Dialer alarm installed and operative on the effective date of this article, shall be and is hereby declared to be, a nuisance. Any such Automatic Dialer alarm shall be removed by the owner thereof within thirty days following the effective date of this Article. Automatic Dialer alarms not so removed shall be subject to abatement as a nuisance.

(b) ~~No person shall make or cause to be made telephone calls utilizing an automatic telephone alarm to any telephone line which terminates at any office or telephone registered to the Village.~~

~~(e)~~ Any person violating this section shall be subject to a fine of not less than three hundred dollars (\$300.00) and not more than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00). (Ord. No. 2681, § 1)

Section 4. That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 5. That this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication in the manner provided by law.

Mayor

Passed:

Published:

Attest: _____

Village Clerk