ORDINANCE NO. 100-89

ALARM SYSTEMS

Section 1. Declaration of Policy and Findings. It is the express intent of the Board of Mason County Commissioners to reasonably protect the public's health, safety and welfare. In cases of repeated "false" alarms, the County law enforcement agency's resources could be burdened. Therefore, the Board of Mason County Commissioners finds administration of this ordinance by qualified law enforcement personnel is appropriate.

Section 2. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the term "false alarm" shall mean the activation of a burglary and/or robbery alarm (silent or audible) by other than a forced entry to the premises and at a time when no burglary or robbery is being committed or attempted on the premises.

Section 3. Notice To Be Posted. It is unlawful to have or maintain on any premises in the unincorporated areas of Mason County an audible type burglary and/or robbery alarm unless there is posted at the main entrance to such premises a prominent notice of the telephone numbers at which the person or persons authorized to enter such premises can be reached at all times, and it is unlawful for any such person to willfully and intentionally fail to appear and turn off any such alarm within one (1) hour after being notified by the appropriate law enforcement agency to do so.

Section 4. Fees for Sheriff Response. For a police response to any false alarm, the Sheriff shall charge and collect from the person having or maintaining such burglary and/or robbery alarm on premises owned or occupied by him, fees as follows:

a.   For a response to premises at which no other false alarm has occurred, hereinafter referred to as a "first response", no fee shall be charged, but the person having or maintaining such alarm shall within five (5) working days after notice to do so, make a written report to the Sheriff, on forms prescribed by him, setting forth the cause of such false alarm and corrective action necessary.

b.   For a second response to premises within three (3) months after a first response, no fee shall be charged, but a written response shall be required as for a first response, and the Sheriff shall order an inspection at the owner's expense and give notice as to repairs or corrective actions.

c.   For a third response within three (3) months after such a second response, a fee of fifty dollars ($50.00) payable to the Mason County Sheriff within thirty (30) days shall be charged, and if such third false alarm or any such succeeding false alarm is a result of failure to take necessary corrective action prescribed by the Sheriff, said Sheriff may order the disconnection of such alarm system, and it shall be unlawful to reconnect such alarm system until such corrective action is taken; provided that no disconnection shall be ordered as to any premises required by law to have an alarm system in operation. An order of the Sheriff to disconnect an alarm system may be reviewed by motion for writ of review to the Mason County District Court. The application for a writ of review shall be made to the court within thirty (30) days of the Sheriff's notice to disconnect the alarm system.
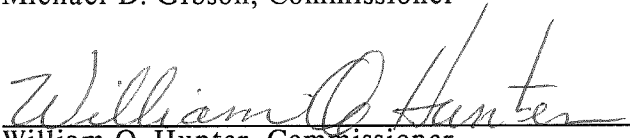
Section 5. Violations and penalties. Any person, firm, or corporation violating any of the provisions of this code shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and each person shall be guilty of a separate offense for each day during which any violation of any of the provisions of this code is committed or continued, and upon conviction of any such violation, shall be punishable by a fine of not more than three hundred dollars ($300.00), or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

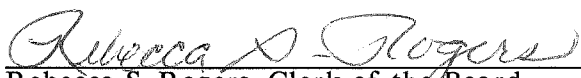ADOPTED this 31st day of October, 1989.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

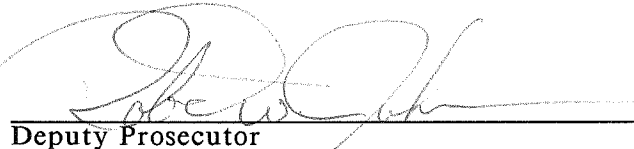Annette S. McGee, Chairperson

Michael D. Gibson, Commissioner

William O. Hunter, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rebecca S. Rogers, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Deputy Prosecutor

c: File
      District Court
      Sheriff
      Superior Court
      /wp50/proposal/ordinance/alarms