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CRAMERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Criminal Investigative Division

Code Enforcement Unit



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TOWN OF CRAMERTON PASSES BURGLAR ALARM ORDINANCE

Cramerton Board of Commissioners passed a Burglar Alarm Ordinance at their August 7th regular meeting. The Ordinance will become effective at midnight on November 1, 2007. The Cramerton Police Department will administrate the Ordinance through its newly formed Code Enforcement Unit. The Ordinance was passed in response to a rise in the number of false burglar alarm calls that are being responded to by the police department. "False alarms place an undue burden on police resources and affects the department's responses to more serious calls," said Cramerton Police Chief Greg Ratchford.

The Ordinance includes provisions for registration of current and future residential and business burglar alarm systems, graduated fine structures for excessive false alarms, new equipment standards, and suspension of police response to chronic false alarms. Residents and business owners will have until November 1st to register their alarm at no cost. Alarm systems registered after November 1st will be subject to a \$25.00 fee. Officers responding to alarm calls after November 1st will be issuing citations to alarm system owners who have not registered their alarm. Failing to register an alarm system will result in a \$50.00 penalty being assessed.

The complete Town of Cramerton Burglar Alarm Ordinance is available for download at the Cramerton Police Department website at www.cramertonpd.org. Click on Crime Prevention and follow the link for the False Alarm Reduction Program. A paper copy of the new Ordinance can be obtained at Cramerton Town Hall. For more information contact the Cramerton Police Code Enforcement Officer at 704.824.7964.

TOWN OF CRAMERTON ALARM ORDINANCE (Annotated)

- All current alarm systems, both commercial and residential, must be registered with the Cramerton Police Department. Newly installed alarm systems must be registered within ten (10) days of installation. Alarm registration must be completed within ten (10) days when a new resident or tenant moves into a location with an active alarm system. Alarm registrations may not be transferred from one tenant/resident to another or to another alarm site. Alarm systems registered prior to November 1, 2007 will not be assessed an alarm registration fee. Alarm systems registered after November 1, 2007 will be subject to a one-time registration fee of \$25.00. Alarm system registration forms are available at the Cramerton Police Department or may be downloaded for completion and submission at the police department's website at www.cramertonpd.org.
- Alarm systems not registered after November 1, 2007 will be assessed a \$50.00 penalty in addition to the \$25.00 registration fee.
- Alarm users must maintain the alarm site and the alarm system in a manner that will minimize or eliminate false alarms. Alarm users must make every reasonable effort to have a key holder respond to the alarm site within twenty (20) minutes when requested by law enforcement. The key holder must be able to deactivate the alarm system, be able to provide access to the alarm site, and be able to provide alternate security to the alarm site if needed. Alarm users must not activate an alarm system for any reason other than an actual occurrence of an event that the alarm system was intended to report.
- Alarm systems with exterior audible signals shall not sound for longer than ten (10) minutes after being activated.
- Alarm users must have the alarm inspected by a licensed alarm company after two (2) false alarms in one (1) year. After four (4) false alarms in one (1) year the alarm user must have a licensed alarm company modify the alarm system to make the system more false alarm resistant.

- Alarms that utilize automatic voice dialers are prohibited. Alarm system instructions must be maintained at the alarm site.
- Police response to alarm sites may be suspended for three (3) or more false alarms in a 12-hour period or five (5) or more false alarms within twelve (12) months.
- Penalties and fees associated with the Burglar Alarm Ordinance are:

Description	Reference	Fee/Fine
Registration fee	97.03(B)(1)	\$25.00
Fine – 1 st False Alarm	97.07(A)(1)	0
Fine – 2 nd False Alarm	97.07(A)(1)	0
Fine – 3 rd False Alarm	97.07(A)(1)	0
Fine – 4 th False Alarm	97.07(A)(1)	\$100.00
Fine – 5 th False Alarm	97.07(A)(1)	\$250.00
Fine – 6 th and Subsequent False Alarm	97.07(A)(1)	\$500.00
Operation of a Non Registered Alarm System	97.07(B)	\$50.00
False Alarm Caused By On Site Alarm Company Employee	97.07(E)	\$50.00
Monitoring Company Failure to Verify	97.07(F)	\$50.00
False Statement by an Alarm Co. Employee Making an On-Site Inspection	97.07(G)	\$50.00
Reinstatement Fee	97.11(A)(1)	\$25.00

Additional information on the Town of Cramerton Burglar Alarm Ordinance can be obtained by calling the Cramerton Police Department Code Enforcement Officer at 704.824.7964. A printable copy of the Town of Cramerton Burglar Alarm Ordinance and the Alarm Registration Form can be downloaded by visiting the Cramerton Police Department Website at www.cramertonpd.org. Click on the Crime Prevention link and look for the False Alarm Reduction Program link.