

ORDINANCE NO. 2923

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY AMENDING SECTION 8.04.050 OF THE SALISBURY CITY CODE TO ADD AND EDIT LANGUAGE REGARDING THE COUNTING METHOD FOR FALSE ALARMS

WHEREAS, the ongoing application, administration and enforcement of the City of Salisbury Municipal Code (the “**Salisbury City Code**”) demonstrates a need for its periodic review, evaluation and amendment, in order to comply with present community standards and values, and promote the public safety, health and welfare of the citizens of the City of Salisbury (the “**City**”);

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Salisbury (the “**Mayor and Council**”) are authorized by MD Code, Local Government, § 5-202 to adopt such ordinances, not contrary to the Constitution of Maryland, public general law or public local law, as the Mayor and Council deem necessary to assure the good government of the municipality, to preserve peace and order, to secure persons and property from damage and destruction, and to protect the health, comfort and convenience of the citizens of the City;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council may amend the Salisbury City Code pursuant to the authority granted in § SC 2-15 of the Salisbury City Charter;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council find that the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of the City will be furthered by amendments to Title 8 of the Salisbury City Code; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have determined that the amendments to Title 8 of the Salisbury City Code set forth below shall be adopted as set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND, as follows:

Section 1. Title 8 of the Salisbury City Code is hereby amended by adding the bolded and underlined language as follows:

Chapter 8.04 – ALARMS

8.04.010 - Purpose and Definitions

The purpose of this chapter is to provide standards and regulations applicable to alarms such as burglar (intrusion), holdup (robbery) alarms, life safety alarms (fire detection, heat detection, smoke detection and water flow in occupancies), alarm companies, alarm agents and alarm users as defined in this chapter. It is the intent of this chapter to provide for the registration of alarm companies, and alarm systems, to control false alarms, to ensure the proper operation, maintenance, and use of alarm systems, to place a time limit on audible alarms and to provide penalties for violations of this chapter.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following words shall have the meanings ascribed to them:

"Alarm" means activation of any alarm system that indicates that a criminal activity, fire or fire-related emergency, or medical emergency is taking place. The alarm may be an audible alarm at or within the occupancy or it may be transmitted to a central monitoring station by electronic means.

"Alarm agent" means any person employed by an alarm company whose duties shall include the altering, installing, maintaining, moving, repairing, replacing, selling, servicing, responding, or causing others to respond, to an alarm system.

"Alarm company" means any person who engages in the business of altering, maintaining, selling at retail, servicing or responding to an alarm system but does not include telephone answering services which receive alarm activation signals and relay information to the Police or Fire Department dispatch centers but do not function in any other manner.

"Alarm dispatch notification" means the process for notification of the Fire or Police dispatch centers indicating that an alarm, either automatic or manual, has been activated at a particular alarm site.

"Alarm signal" means the actual activation of an alarm system.

"Alarm site" means a single premise or location with multiple premises served by an alarm system or systems.

"Alarm system" means any assembly of equipment, mechanical or electrical, device, or series of devices, including, but not limited to, systems interconnected by radio frequency signals, arranged or designed to signal an alarm indicating an unauthorized entry to, or criminal activity requiring attention and to which the Police are expected to respond. It shall also mean an alarm indicating fire, smoke, excessive heat, or sprinkler water flow in the occupancy by emitting or transmitting a remote or local audible, visual, or electronic signal indicating an alarm condition that requires immediate attention and to which the Fire Department is expected to respond. Alarm system includes devices activated automatically, such as burglar alarms, fire, heat, or smoke detectors, water flow alarms and devices activated manually, such as holdup alarms and individual emergency pull stations. Alarm system does not include an alarm installed on a vehicle or an alarm designed to alert only the occupants of a premise that does not have a sounding device that is audible on the exterior of the alarm site.

"Alarm user" means any owner or lessor of any alarm system, the occupant of any dwelling unit with an alarm system, each tenant using an alarm system in a multi-tenant occupancy, or any person, firm, partnership, corporation, government or other entity which uses an alarm system at an alarm site.

"Audible alarm system" means an alarm system, which utilizes an audible device such as a siren, bell, horn, klaxon, etc., as a warning device when the alarm is activated.

"Automatic dialing device" means an alarm system, which automatically sends over a regular telephone line, by, direct connection or otherwise, a prerecorded voice message indicating the existence of the emergency situation that the alarm system is designed to detect.

"Cancellation" means verification from the alarm business or company that there is no actual emergency at the alarm site and there is no further need for the Police or Fire Department to respond.

"Central monitoring station" means any office, station, or telephone answering service where trained employees monitor and/or receive emergency signals from alarm systems, and relay messages from such signals by live voice to the City of Salisbury Police and Fire Department telecommunications and dispatch center.

"City" means the City of Salisbury, Maryland.

"Control panel" means the on-site central processing unit designed to control, manage, and operate an alarm system.

"Digital dialer" means a device that transmits digital signals from an alarm system to a central monitoring station through the telephone network.

"Enhanced Call Verification" means that all central monitoring stations that handle residential or commercial intrusion and/or burglar alarm activations shall make two phone calls in an attempt to verify the validity of any monitored alarm activation.

"False alarm" means an alarm dispatch request to the Police or Fire Department, which results in the responding officer(s) finding no evidence of a criminal offense, attempted criminal offense, or an actual fire or medical emergency, after completing an investigation of the alarm site.

"Fire Chief" means the Chief of the Fire Department of the City of Salisbury, or his/her designee.

"Fire Department" means the City of Salisbury Fire Department.

"Fire Department dispatch center" means the agency responsible for dispatching the Fire Department for event response.

"Holdup alarm system" means an alarm system signaling a robbery or attempted robbery.

"Key box entry system" means a device designed to safely secure keys, or other information, for use by Fire Department personnel to quickly gain access to the control panel.

"Keypad or touch pad" means a device that permits the control of an alarm system by the manual entering of a coded sequence of numbers or letters.

"Location" means an entire tract or parcel of land and includes tracts or parcels of land that contain multiple buildings and/or multiple alarm systems.

"Monitoring" means the process by which an alarm company receives signals from alarm systems and relays an alarm dispatch notification to the dispatching agency for the purpose of summoning fire, emergency medical services, and/or police personnel to respond to the alarm site.

"Opt Out" means the process by which a verified alarm user notifies the alarm company or alarm agent that the alarm user has chosen to waive the Enhanced Call Verification (ECV) required by this Chapter.

"Person" means any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company of any kind.

"Police Chief" means the Chief of the Police Department of the City of Salisbury, or his/her designee.

"Police Department" means the City of Salisbury Police Department.

"Proprietor" means any person who owns or controls the use of property in which an alarm system is installed.

"Twelve (12) month period" means any calendar year.

"Verification" means the attempt by the alarm company or its representative/s to contact the alarm site by telephone or other electronic means, whether or not actual contact with a person is made, to corroborate, or verify, the information transmitted by the alarm signal.

"Written notice" means notice by certified mail, return receipt requested.

8.04.045 – Counting of False Alarms

An apartment complex or any other tract or parcel of land that contains multiple buildings and/or multiple alarm systems shall be considered one single location for the purpose of counting the number of False Alarms that occur at a single location.

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND, as follows:

Section 2. It is the intention of the Mayor and Council of the City of Salisbury that each provision of this Ordinance shall be deemed independent of all other provisions herein.

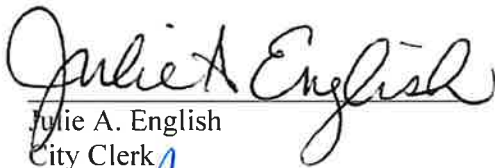
Section 3. It is further the intention of the Mayor and Council of the City of Salisbury that if any section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable under applicable Maryland or federal law, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision so adjudged and all other provisions of this Ordinance shall remain and shall be deemed valid and enforceable.


Section 4. The recitals set forth hereinabove are incorporated into this section of the Ordinance as if such recitals were specifically set forth at length in this Section 4.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall take effect from and after the date of its final passage.

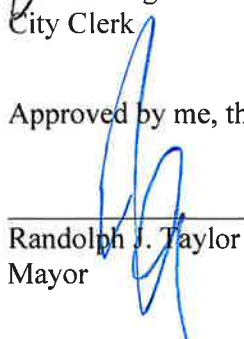
THIS ORDINANCE was introduced and read at a Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Salisbury held on the 24 day of February, 2025 and thereafter, a statement of the substance of the Ordinance having been published as required by law, in the meantime, was finally passed by the Council of the City of Salisbury on the 10 day of March, 2025

ATTEST:


Julie A. English
City Clerk


D'Shawn M. Doughty
City Council President

Approved by me, this 18 day of March, 2025.


Randolph J. Taylor
Mayor