

ORDINANCE NO. 2009-OR-12

**ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SERVICE CHARGES FOR FALSE ALARMS
REPORTED TO JEFFERSONVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, the City of Jeffersonville typically responds to fire alarms when notified by alarm companies and/or the public; and

WHEREAS, many persons who are the owners of property where fire alarms are installed, are negligent and careless, regarding the use of those alarms; and

WHEREAS, continuous false alarms lower the efficiency and preparedness of the firemen of the Jeffersonville Fire Department, thereby causing persons with actual alarms or emergencies to be disadvantaged; and

WHEREAS, experience has indicated that when persons are assessed penalties for reporting false alarms that the number of false alarms decrease dramatically.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JEFFERSONVILLE that no person, corporation, business, private and/or not for profit hospital, residential facility or other entity shall report a false alarm to the City of Jeffersonville Fire Department.

"False alarm" means, in the case of a fire alarm, an alarm signal or recorded message indicating the presence of fire or excessive smoke or heat, when in fact no evidence exists upon inspection of the premises upon response to such alarm.

Persons who report false alarms to the City of Jeffersonville Fire Department shall be fined as follows during any calendar year:

- (1) Three false alarms shall be allowed at no penalty to the property owner.
- (2) The fourth false alarm shall result in a \$150.00 fine.
- (3) The 5th false alarm shall result in a \$250.00 fine.
- (4) The 6th and all other subsequent false alarms shall result in a \$350.00 fine

Any company reporting an alarm as the agent for an alarm holder shall be jointly and severally liable for the payment of fines as outlined above.

For the Fire Department, The Deputy Chief of the Jeffersonville Fire Department shall be in charge of tracking all reported false alarms to the Jeffersonville Fire Department.

That upon the report of a false alarm the designated person above shall send notice to the offending property owner of the fine owed by the property owner in accordance to the above

schedule of fines.

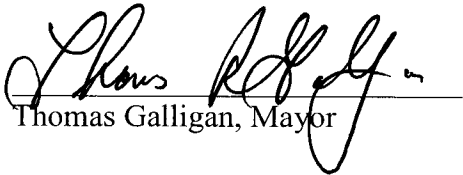
The property owner shall have 14 days in which to pay the fine.

Failure to pay the assessed fine shall result in the matter being filed in the Jeffersonville City Court. The property owner and/or alarm company would then be subject to court costs in addition to the appropriate fine above.

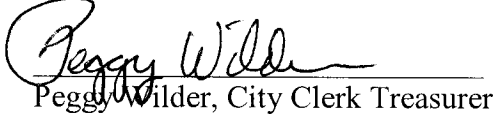
All fines collected in violation of this ordinance and in response to false alarms responded to the Jeffersonville Fire Department shall be paid directly to the Jeffersonville Fire Department Non-reverting Fund.

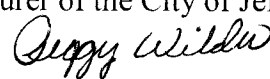
This Ordinance shall become effective thirty days after its passage upon its last reading.

Passed and adopted by the Common Council of the City of Jeffersonville, Clark County, Indiana, on the 16th day of March, 2009.

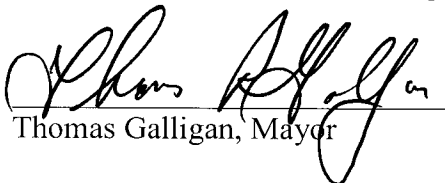

Thomas Galligan, Mayor

Attest:


Peggy Wilder, City Clerk Treasurer

Presented by me as Clerk Treasurer of the City of Jeffersonville this 18th day of March, 2009. 

This Ordinance approved and signed by me this ____ day of _____, 200 ____.


Thomas Galligan, Mayor