



# COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: 3/23/2021

---

File #: 21-185

---

**To:** Board of Supervisors

**From:** Sheriff

**Agenda Section:** Consent

**SUBJECT:**

Adoption of Ordinance Amending Chapter 6 of Division 1, Title IX of the Humboldt County Code Relating to Regulation and Permitting of Alarm Systems in Humboldt County

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_, amending Chapter 6 of Division 1, Title IX of the Humboldt County Code Relating to Regulation and Permitting of Alarm Systems in Humboldt County.

**SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

General Fund

**DISCUSSION:**

Chapter 6 of Division 1, Title IX of the Humboldt County Code regulates personal and business alarm installation for the county ("the ordinance"). The Sheriff's Office responds to over twelve hundred (1,200) false alarms each year, many in outlying areas and often to the same locations. This is an ineffective use of taxpayer funds and diverts law enforcement resources from where they are needed. Therefore, the fees in the ordinance are designed to incentivize home and business owners to take responsibility for their alarms and prevent false alarm calls for service whenever possible.

Some of the ordinance fees have been historically listed on the Humboldt County Schedule of Fees ("Schedule of Fees") and are also listed in the ordinance creating opportunities for one or the other to not be updated at the same time in the event changes are proposed. Other ordinance fees are only listed in the ordinance and not on the Schedule of Fees. The Sheriff's Office has proposed listing all the ordinance fees on the Schedule of Fees and changing the language in the ordinance to refer to the Schedule of Fees for current fee rates. This will create more transparency and annual review of the fees for the ordinance.

In addition to listing all the ordinance fees on the Schedule of Fees, the Sheriff's Office also proposed

restructuring and increasing the false alarm fees and reducing the late fees. On February 23, 2021 your Board approved the addition of the ordinance fees to the Schedule of Fees and approved the proposed changes to the false alarm fees and late fees which will go into effect on March 29, 2021.

Due to the timing of the Schedule of Fees effective date and the introduction and adoption of the amended ordinance, the Sheriff's Office will continue to charge the rates listed in the current ordinance and will not implement the new fees until April 22, 2021 (pending adoption of the amended ordinance today). Below is a chronological summary of the anticipated fee changes and timeline:

<b>Current Ordinance Fees to be charged until April 22, 2021</b>	<b>Schedule of Fees effective March 29, 2021</b>	<b>Amended Ordinance Fees effective April 22, 2021</b>
False Alarms: 3 free in a 6-month period \$50.00 each additional	False Alarms: 2 free in a 12-month period 3 <sup>rd</sup> false alarm \$50.00 4 <sup>th</sup> false alarm \$100.00 5 <sup>th</sup> false alarm \$150.00 6 <sup>th</sup> + false alarm \$200.00	As set forth in the Humboldt County Schedule of Fees and Charges
Late Payment Penalty \$50.00	Late Payment Penalty 30-day late \$5.00 60-day late \$10.00 90-day late \$15.00 ( <i>total late fees assessed in a 90-day period is \$30.00</i> )	As set forth in the Humboldt County Schedule of Fees and Charges
All other fees as stated in the ordinance.	All other ordinance fees added to the Schedule of Fees are the same rates listed in the ordinance. There are no other proposed changes.	As set forth in the Humboldt County Schedule of Fees and Charges

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

False alarm and permitting fees save taxpayers money by establishing penalties for unnecessary law enforcement response to alarm activations and by resulting in data collection of local alarm holders to make their response to all alarm calls more efficient. There is negligible financial impact for legally required publication. This can be covered by existing budget appropriations.

**STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:**

This action supports your Board's Strategic Framework by enforcing laws and regulations to protect residents.

**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:**

N/A

**ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Your Board could choose to revise or reject the recommended ordinance amendment, but that is not recommended as these updates clarify the existing text.

---

**File #: 21-185**

---

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment 1: Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_

Attachment 2: Summary for Publication after Adoption of the Ordinance

**PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:**

Board Order No.: N/A

Meeting of: March 16, 2021

File No.: 21-149