

Introduction: June 18, 2024
Public Hearing: July 16, 2024

**ORDINANCE 2024-16
TOWNSHIP OF CHESTER**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 54 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE PERTAINING
TO POLICE AND FIRE ALARMS SYSTEMS IN THE TOWNSHIP OF CHESTER**

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police of the Chester Police Department and the Chief of the Chester Volunteer Fire Company have requested that Chapter 54, Alarms, be amended to deal with the occurrences of multiple false alarms; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Chester have determined that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the Township to amend Chapter 54; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Chester have determined that amending Chapter 54 will enhance the operations and efficiencies of the Police Department and the Volunteer Fire Company, and enhance the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township as follows:

Section 1.

Chapter 54. Alarms is deleted in its entirety.

Section 2.

In its place a new Chapter 54 is adopted and reads:

§ 54.1. Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to provide for the establishment and maintenance of an efficient, effective and uniform police and fire alarm system within the Township of Chester and to provide standards and regulations for alarm equipment, devices and systems to be installed or connected within the Township. It shall be the policy of the Township to encourage the installation of alarm devices as an aid to public safety.

§ 54.2. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

ALARM SYSTEM – Any device designed or used for detection or unauthorized entry or alerting others to the commission of an unlawful act, or both, and the detection of fire or smoke or similar hazards.

ENFORCEMENT AGENT – The Chief of Police or his designee shall be the Enforcement Agent.

§ 54.3. Automatic termination device required.

Each alarm system shall contain an automatic device that terminates (deactivates the arm condition) within 15 minutes after initiation.

§ 54.4. Rules and regulations.

- A. The Chief of Police may make, prescribe and promulgate rules and regulations regarding the alarm equipment, devices or systems covered by this Chapter.
- B. Such rules and regulations shall be made, prescribed and promulgated:
 - (1) To sufficiently promote and ensure an effective and uniform police and fire alarm system and proper installation and connection.
 - (2) To provide for maintenance of records and efficient management of the alarm system, the speedy and accurate operation and reporting of alarms, minimizing mechanical failure, minimizing false alarms and the consequential dangers of the same to citizens of the Township of Chester.
 - (3) For the proper monitoring of alarms and prompt response to such alarms.
 - (4) For the prevention of jamming of the switchboard and the creation of nuisances or other interference or hinderance with the proper operation of duties of the Police Department.
- C. Said rules and regulations and all changes thereof shall be subject to the approval of the Mayor and Council of the Township of Chester.

§ 54.5. Violations and penalties; false alarms and notification, enforcement.

- A. The property owner shall be accountable for false alarms caused by equipment failure or malfunction of the alarm system installed by the property owner, property owner's alarm installer, or their alarm maintenance company.
- B. For any false alarms within a 365 day period, the fines for false alarms shall be: first false alarm no fine; second false alarm \$250.00; third false alarm \$500.00; fourth false alarm \$1,500.00; and \$1,500.00 for each false alarm after the fourth false alarm.
- C. In the event of a false alarm, any person having knowledge thereof shall immediately notify the Chester Township Police Department. In addition, in the case of a false alarm, the Chief of Police of Chester Township shall cause an investigation to be made and keep a record of said alarms on file.
- D. In the event a property owner does not pay a fine, within thirty (30) days of the date of the fine invoice, the Chief of Police may pursue collections in a court of competent jurisdiction.
- E. The Enforcement Agent for this Ordinance shall be the Chief of Police or his designee.

Section 3.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance amendment are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 4.

This Ordinance amendment shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication according to law.

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF CHESTER

Robin Collins

Robin Collins
Municipal Clerk/Administrator

Timothy Drag

Timothy Drag
Mayor