

ORDINANCE NO. 18-15

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 125 OF THE JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED “FALSE EMERGENCY CALLS”

WHEREAS, the Police Department of the Township of Jefferson has experienced false emergency telephone calls received through the Morris County 911 Emergency System; and

WHEREAS, the Police are required to investigate each 911 call, even though the same may be false; and

WHEREAS, there have been repeated false emergency calls from the same numbers; and

WHEREAS, such false calls cause unnecessary investigation, which wastes time and resources of the Police Department of Jefferson Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council is desirous of providing for penalties for repeated false emergency calls.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Jefferson, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, that there is hereby established Chapter 125 of the Jefferson Township Municipal Code, entitled “False Emergency Calls” as follows:

SECTION I

§125.1 **Purpose.** The purpose of this Chapter is to discourage the making or causing of false emergency calls through the Morris County 911 Emergency System, so as to reduce the waste of resources within the Township Police Department.

§125.2 **Definitions.** As used in this Chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

False Emergency Call. Any telephone call or other type of communication received by the Jefferson Township Police Department through the Morris County 911 Emergency System. This shall include all such calls, whether intentional or unintentional, or caused by failure, malfunction, accidental dialing or operation of equipment, inadvertence or negligence by the person making the call, or their employees or agents.

Person. Includes any natural person, partnership, firm, corporation or association.

§125.3 **Penalties for False Emergency Calls.** Any person, employee, agent, or servant of any person, who causes a false emergency telephone call or communication to be made through the Morris County 911 Emergency System which is received by the Jefferson Township Police Department, shall be subject to the following penalties:

1. For the first offense of a false emergency call, a verbal warning shall be issued.
2. For the second offense of a false emergency call, a written warning shall be issued.
3. For the third offense of a false emergency call, and any subsequent false emergency call within a 180-day period, a Summons shall be issued and if found guilty, a minimum fine of \$100 up to a maximum fine of \$500 shall be imposed.
4. Multiple Summonses may be issued to the owner of the phone, as well as the person or person(s) who caused the false emergency call to be made.

SECTION II

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistencies.

SECTION III

If any article, section, subsection, paragraph, phrase or sentence is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional or invalid, said article, section, subsection, paragraph, phrase or sentence shall be deemed severable.

SECTION IV

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final publication as provided by law.

ATTEST:

COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF JEFFERSON

LORI HARVIN, CLERK

RICHARD W. YOCUM, PRESIDENT

INTRODUCED: September 2, 2015

ADOPTED: September 23, 2015

RUSSELL W. FELTER, MAYOR

DATE AND TIME PRESENTED TO MAYOR FOR SIGNATURE:

CERTIFICATION

I, LORI HARVIN, Clerk of the Township of Jefferson, do hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was duly adopted by the Township of Jefferson Council on the ____ day of _____, 2015.

LORI HARVIN, Clerk