



GENERAL POLICE ORDER CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE



EFFECTIVE DATE: OCTOBER 16, 2006	REVISED DATE: OCTOBER 17, 2007	NO. PAGES: 1 of 2	NUMBER: 3.2.08
SUBJECT: <b style="text-align: center;">CHRONIC ALARM ABUSE PROGRAM (CAAP)			
ASSOCIATED MANUAL:		RELATED ORDERS:	
CHIEF OF POLICE: <b style="text-align: center;"><i>Michael McGrath, Chief</i>			

Revisions are in Italic

PURPOSE: To reduce patrol time spent responding to unnecessary alarms.

POLICY: The Cleveland Division of Police shall respond to burglar and intrusion alarms by request or assignment. Two unnecessary responses to an alarm at the same location within a calendar year classify that location as a “Chronic Alarm” location. The Division shall still respond to citizen complaints or calls for service at chronic alarm locations.

Codified Ordinance 670A, Section 670A.02, requires the Division to bill chronic alarm locations \$130 to reimburse part of the response cost for a third and or any subsequent unnecessary alarms.

DEFINITION: "Unnecessary alarm" means the activation of an alarm system whereby the Division of Police is summoned to a location when there is no incident occurring nor is there any evidence of any incident having occurred or having been attempted, as reported by the alarm.

"Unnecessary alarm" shall also mean any violation of Section 670A.04—All bells, sirens, or other noise sources that sound in the event of an alarm are, if located in residential areas, to cut off automatically within fifteen (15) minutes after the alarm has been activated or, if located in commercial areas, to cut off automatically within thirty (30) minutes after the alarm has been activated.

Audible alarms shall not resemble the sound of any emergency signal or civil defense alarm or siren. "Unnecessary alarm" shall not include alarms obviously attributable to extreme weather conditions, or power outages. The burden of proof of such exceptions to this section is on the alarm system user.

Bank, vehicle, residential, panic and hold-up alarms are exempt from this order.

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PROCEDURES:

- I. Patrol Section procedures
 - A. If an officer investigating an alarm determines that the alarm was activated by something other than a criminal act or that MC 607A.04 has been violated, the officer shall report final disposition to Communications Control Section (CCS) personnel as “***NO CAUSE.***”
 - B. Sector supervisors are responsible for ensuring that *officers provide proper final* dispositions to CCS.
- II. CCS shall *ensure that the proper disposition is entered into CAD/RMS system*
- III. Reviews, Hearings and Appeals

Any person/entity who has been invoiced pursuant to Section 670A.02 may request, in writing, within thirty (30) days of the date of invoice, a hearing by the Chief of Police or designee for the purpose of presenting evidence that an unnecessary alarm did not occur, or that the person/entity invoiced is not the alarm system user.

- A. Upon the establishment by the Division of Police of a *prima facie* case supporting the invoice, the burden of proof shall shift to the person/entity who requested the hearing. The rules of evidence applicable to courts of law shall not be strictly applied.
- B. If the Chief of Police or designee determines, by a preponderance of the evidence, that an unnecessary alarm did not occur, or that the person/entity invoiced pursuant to Section 670A.02 is not the alarm system user, then the charges shall be voided, otherwise the charges shall be due and payable.
- C. Any person/entity subject to an adverse finding by the Chief of Police or designee pursuant to Section 670A.05 may appeal the finding to the Board of Building Standards and Building Appeals. The notice of appeal shall be in writing and shall be filed with the Board of Building Standards and Building Appeals within ten (10) days of the finding of the Chief of Police or designee.

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Policy & Procedures Unit