ORDINANCE NO._______________

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 3 OF THE LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS REVISED CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ADD CERTAIN CRITERIA FOR IMPROVING THE PROCESSING OF FALSE ALARMS; TO ELIMINATE FINES FOR CERTAIN ALARM CANCELLATIONS; TO IMPOSE A FEE FOR LATE PAYMENTS; TO CLARIFY CERTAIN DEFINITIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Little Rock Board of Directors passed the False Alarm Reduction Ordinance (Ordinance No. 19,331) on June 7, 2005, to reduce false alarms; and,

WHEREAS, the City’s 911 answering system receives approximately 250,000 calls per year, of which 34,500 are from alarms; and,

WHEREAS, of these 34,500 calls from alarm systems, over 90% are false alarms; and,

WHEREAS, sending an emergency response to a false alarm decreases the availability of the emergency services personnel to respond to true emergencies, thereby decreasing public safety; and,

WHEREAS, it is desirable to clarify certain definitions, remove inconsistencies, impose a fee for late payments, and eliminate fees for cancelled alarms that are cancelled before law enforcement arrives at the site that was the subject of the alarm;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

Section 1. The following definitions in the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3, Article II, Section 3-13, are deleted and replaced with the following language:

   **Conversion** means the transaction or process by which one alarm installation company or monitoring company begins the servicing or monitoring, or both, of a previously unmonitored alarm system or an alarm system previously serviced or monitored, or both, by another alarm company.

   **False alarm** means an alarm dispatch request to an emergency service agency to summon a law enforcement agency, fire dispatch or medical emergency, or any combination thereof, to a nonemergency situation.

   **Grace period** means a specified length of time from the date of installation, or system conversion or takeover during which no occurrence, fine or penalty is assessed for false alarms.

Section 2. The Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3, Article II, Section 3-14(d)(7)a is hereby amended to read as follows:

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Operating instructions for the alarm system, including guidelines on how to avoid false alarms, have been read and agreed upon by the alarm user.

Section 3. The Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3, Article II, Section 3-19(c) is hereby deleted in its entirety.

Section 4. The Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3, Article II, Section 3-20 is hereby amended by adding a new subsection (i):

(i) A Twenty-Five Dollar ($25.00) late fee will be assessed for each false alarm invoice not paid within thirty (30) days of the due date stated on the invoice notice.

Section 5. The Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3, Article II, Section 3-21(d) is hereby deleted and replaced with language to read as follows:

(d) If an alarm cancellation occurs prior to emergency services arriving at the site that was the subject of the alarm, the call is not a false alarm for the purpose of fees for service and no fee will be assessed.

Section 6. The Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3, Article II, Section 3-22(f)(1) is hereby deleted and replaced with language to read as follows:

(1) The installation company or the monitoring company may file a written request by paying an appeal fee of twenty-five dollars ($25.00) and setting forth the reasons for the appeal within fifteen (15) business days after the date of notification of the decision from the alarm administrator. Appeal fees will be returned to the appealing company if the appeal is upheld.

Section 7. The Code of Ordinances, Chapter 3, Article II, Section 3-25 is hereby deleted in its entirety.

Section 8. Severability. In the event that any title, section, paragraph, item, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this ordinance is declared or adjudged to be invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration or adjudication shall not affect the remaining portions of the ordinance which shall remain in full force and effect as if the portion so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional were not originally a part of the ordinance.

Section 9. Repealer. All ordinances, resolutions, bylaws, and other matters inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

PASSED: April 7, 2015

ATTEST:  APPROVED:

_________________________________  ____________________________________
Susan Langley, City Clerk    Mark Stodola, Mayor
APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

Thomas M. Carpenter, City Attorney