

WEST PENN TOWNSHIP
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

ORDINANCE NO. 1 OF 2026

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING FALSE ALARMS CAUSED BY FAULTY FIRE DETECTION, ALARM EQUIPMENT OR NEGLIGENCE; ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES AND SERVICE FEES; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT AND ESTABLISHING FINES AND PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN REPEALERS AND VALIDITY; AND ESTABLISHING THE EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Ordinance is to promote the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens of West Penn Township by prohibiting making or causing to be made, a false fire or security alarm within the Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BEING ENACTED AND ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors of West Penn Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania (the "Township"), and it is hereby enacted and ordained by Authority of the same, as follows:

Section 1. Definitions. For the purposes of this Ordinance the following terms shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this Section, unless from the particular context it clearly appears that some other meaning is intended:

(a) **False Alarm** shall mean any signal activated by an automatic protection device, any audible alarm or any other kind of direct or indirect signal given to which police, fire department or emergency response agencies respond which is not the result of an attempted illegal entry, burglary, intrusion, fire, medical or other similar emergency, excluding weather extremes and utility interruptions, which activates a protection device.

(b) **Twelve-Month Period** shall mean a period of twelve (12) consecutive months determined on a rolling basis with a new twelve-month period beginning on the first day of each calendar month.

Section 2. False Alarms Prohibited. It shall be unlawful for the property owner, lessee or any person occupying or otherwise on any premises within the Township, to make or cause to be made, a false fire or security alarm directly or indirectly to any fire department, police department or emergency response agency responding to alarms within the Township, where the false alarm is caused by faulty detection or alarm equipment or by the negligent or intentional acts of said property owner, lessee or person.

Section 3. False Alarm Procedures/Service Fees.

A. The status of an alarm is to be determined by the police department, fire company or other affected emergency response agency, and the decision shall be final.

B. Upon notification of a false alarm by the Township, a written report shall be made within fourteen (14) days by the owner or lessee to the Township and shall contain what steps have been taken to eliminate future false alarms.

C. Services fees for false alarms shall be assessed by the Township as follows:

1. Third false alarm in any twelve-month period shall be subject to a service fee not to exceed One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).
2. Fourth false alarm in any one twelve-month period shall be subject to a service fee not to exceed Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00).
3. Fifth and subsequent false alarms in any twelve-month period shall be subject to a service fee not to exceed Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00).

D. Service fees established under subsection C. above may be revised and modified by Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the Township.

Section 4. Penalties and Remedies for Violations.

A. Any person who or which violates or permits a violation of the provisions of this Code shall, upon conviction in a summary proceeding, pay a fine of not less than \$300.00 nor more than \$1,000.00 per violation, plus all court costs and reasonable attorney's fees incurred by the Township in the enforcement proceedings, and/or be imprisoned to the extent allowed by law for the punishment of summary offenses. Each day or portion thereof that a violation exists or continues shall constitute a separate violation, and each section of this Ordinance that is violated shall also constitute a separate offense. All fines, penalties, costs and reasonable attorneys' fees collected for the violation of this Code shall be paid to the Township for its general use.

B. In the event a violation of this Ordinance occurs, in addition to such other remedies as may be available under existing law, the Township may institute an action in equity to prevent, restrain, correct, abate or enjoin such violation.

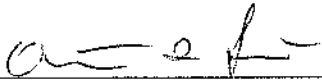
Section 5. Repealer. All Ordinances or Resolutions, or parts of Ordinances or Resolutions, including without limitation Township Ordinance No. 5 of 2000, insofar as they are inconsistent herewith, shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

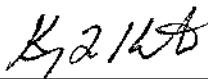
Section 11. Validity. If any section or part of a section of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining parts or sections of this Ordinance. It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent that this Ordinance would have been enacted as if such invalid section, or portion thereof, had not been included therein.

Section 12. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective five (5) days after enactment thereof.


DULY ENACTED AND ORDAINED this 6th day of April, 2026, by the Board of Supervisors of West Penn Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, in lawful session duly assembled.

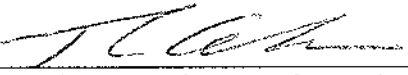
WEST PENN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By: 
Anthony J. Prudenti, Chairman

By: 
Kyle Kester, Supervisor

ATTEST:


(Assistant) Secretary

By: 
Thomas Ackerman, Supervisor