BOROUGH OF SEVEN FIELDS
BUTLER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

ORDINANCE NO. 34
(Amended December 10, 2007)

AN AMENDMENT TO THE ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SEVEN FIELDS, BUTLER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, MAKING UNLAWFUL THE STARTING OR SPREADING OF ANY FALSE ALARM OF POLICE, FIRE, OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) ALARM, INCLUDING FALSE ALARMS CAUSED BY IMPROPERLY MAINTAINED OR DEFECTIVE ALARM SYSTEMS WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF SEVEN FIELDS, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION HEREOF, AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY.

WHEREAS, the Cranberry Township Police Department (Police Department for Seven Fields Borough) and the Adams Area Fire District (Fire Department for Seven Fields Borough), receives certain emergency police, fire, and EMS alarms through the Butler County 911 Communications Center, Butler County, Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, from time to time certain emergency alarms may be received directly by the Seven Fields Borough police office; and

WHEREAS, false police, fire, and/or EMS alarms are received as the result of improperly maintained or defective alarm systems and also as the result of persons improperly placing such alarms, the result of which often is that police, fire, or EMS personnel and equipment is unnecessarily called out to the detriment of the citizens and residents of the Borough of Seven Fields.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Seven Fields, Butler County, Pennsylvania, and it is hereby ordained and enacted by and with the authority of the same:

SECTION I. Definitions- as used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated, unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context:

Accidental False Alarm- Any false alarm which is not intentionally caused and which occurs when an actual intrusion, crime, fire or other emergency has not taken place.

Alarm- A communication to the police, fire, or EMS department indicating that a crime, fire or other emergency situation warranting immediate action by the police, fire, or EMS departments has occurred or is occurring.

Alarm Device- A device designed to automatically transmit an alarm by wire, telephone, radio signal or other means 1) to the Butler County 911 Communications Center or the Cranberry Township Police Department, 2) to a person who is instructed to notify the Butler County 911 Communications Center or Cranberry Township Police Department of the alarm, or 3) to activate a bell or sounding device to be heard outside a building which is intended to alert the police or others to the existence of a crime, fire or other emergency situation warranting action by emergency services.

Central Station System- A system, or group of systems, in which the operations of circuits and devices are signaled automatically to, recorded in, maintained, and supervised from an approved central station having competent and experienced observers and operators who shall, upon receipt of a signal, take such action as shall be required under the rules established for their guidance. Such systems shall be controlled and operated by a person, firm, or corporation whose principal business is the furnishing and maintaining of supervised signal service, and who does not have interest in protected properties.

EMS- The Emergency Medical Services of the Borough of Seven Fields (Adams Area Fire District -Emergency Medical Services).

False Alarm- An alarm to which the police, fire, or EMS department responds resulting from the activation of an alarm device when a crime, fire or other emergency warranting immediate action by the police department, fire department, or EMS has not in fact occurred.

Indirect Alarm Device – An alarm device designed to transmit an alarm to a person who is instructed to notify the police, or fire department, or other emergency service of the alarm.

Intermediary- A central protective system or an answering service as herein defined.

Key- To use a telephone line and equipment for transmitting a message either directly or indirectly by an automatic protection device.

Person- An individual, corporation, partnership, incorporated association or other similar entity.

Proprietary Protective Signaling System- An installation of protective signaling systems which serve contiguous or noncontiguous properties under one ownership from a central supervising station located at the protected property, where trained, competent personnel are in constant attendance. This includes the central supervising station, power supplies, signal initiating devices, initiating device circuits, signal notification appliances, equipment for the automatic, permanent visual recording of signals and equipment for the operation of emergency building control services.

Remote Station Protective Signaling System- An installation using supervised dedicated circuits, installed to transmit alarm, supervisory and trouble signals from one or more protected premises to a remote location at which appropriate action is taken.

Silent Alarm- A protective system that does not emit an audible signal or tone when activated at a protected site and is monitored by an intermediary or an emergency communication center.

Borough -The Borough of Seven Fields, Butler County, Pennsylvania.

In this Ordinance, the singular shall include the plural; the plural shall include the singular; the masculine shall include the feminine and the neuter.

SECTION II-False Alarms

1) Accidental false alarms. Any person causing accidental false alarms for any reason shall pay to the Borough of Seven Fields a charge for each and every accidental false alarm to which the police, fire and/or EMS or other emergency service responds, in each calendar year, as follows:

First alarm each year	No Charge
Second to fifth alarm each year	$100.00
Sixth to tenth alarm each year	$200.00
Ten or more alarms each year	$250.00

2) The charges imposed by this Ordinance shall not apply to false alarms due to weather conditions or the first three false alarms which shall occur during the first six (6) months from initial installation of the system due to system malfunction and one false alarm per year thereafter.

3) When an accidental false alarm occurs, the Borough shall notify the person responsible for the alarm device from which the false alarm emanated that a false alarm charge is due and the amount thereof.

4) An accidental false alarm charge shall be due and payable to the Borough of Seven Fields thirty (30) days from the date of the notice of the charge.

5) Failure of a person causing an accidental false alarm, to pay a false alarm charge on or before the date due shall constitute a violation of the Ordinance, and shall subject said person to the penalties set forth in Section V hereof.

SECTION III-Operational Standards

1) If an alarm device is designed to cause a bell, siren, or sound-making device to be activated on or near the premises on which the alarm device is installed at the time it gives an alarm, said alarm device shall be equipped with a timing mechanism that will disengage the audible alarm after a maximum period of then (10) minutes, other than fire alarms. Exceptions shall be made for certified systems requiring longer sounding alarms for insurance purposes, providing that certification and policy requirements are documented with the Borough, and maintained, and further providing that these devices are equipped with timers to disengage the audible alarm after the minimum time required for certification. All existing audible alarms without such a timing mechanism, other than fire alarms, shall be disconnected by the owner or lessee within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this Ordinance.

2) The sensory mechanism used in conjunction with an alarm device must be adjusted to suppress false indications of fire or intrusion, so that the alarm device will not be activated by impulses due to transient pressure change in water lines, short flashes of light, wind noises such as rattling or vibrating of doors or windows, vehicular noises adjacent to the premises, or other forces unrelated to genuine alarm situations.

3) The alarm device must be maintained in good repair to assure reliability of operation.

4) No person shall conduct or test any alarm device without first notifying Butler County 911 Communications Center. Where the equipment is keyed through an intermediary, no such permission is necessary unless the alarm or signal is to be relayed to the central receiving station.

SECTION IV-Administration and Enforcement- The Borough Manager/ Secretary shall develop and implement the necessary procedures for the effective administration and enforcement of this Ordinance.

SECTION V-Penalties- Any person, firm, partnership, or corporation who shall violate any provision of this Ordinance or who shall fail to pay a charge for a false alarm, shall upon conviction before the District Magistrate thereof, be sentenced to pay a fine not more than one thousand dollars ($1,000.00).

SECTION VI-Repealer- All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances which are inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION VII-Severability- If any sentence, clause, section, or part of this Ordinance is for any reason found to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, such unconstitutionality, illegality or invalidity shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, sections or parts of this Ordinance. It is hereby declared as the intent of the Borough Council that this Ordinance would have been adopted and such unconstitutional, illegal or invalid sentence, clause, section or part thereof not been included herein.

ORDAINED AND ENACTED INTO LAW BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF SEVEN FIELDS THIS 10TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2007.

/s/ Thomas B. Smith
Thomas B. Smith
Borough Manager and Secretary

/s/ John White
John White
Borough President