Chapter 16. POLICE

Article I. In General

Sec. 16-1. Police mutual aid compact.

Editor's note: The signatories of this agreement included representatives from the following municipalities: City of Hartford, Town of Wethersfield, Town of Glastonbury, Town of Newington, Town of West Hartford, Town of Rocky Hill and the Town of Southington.


Section 7-277a of the General Statutes authorizes mutual police aid between the municipalities of the state in emergency situations. It is desirable that the terms of such section be effectuated through a compact between municipalities wishing to cooperate thereunder and to signify their individual understanding of and willingness to participate in a program of mutual police assistance. It is agreed by and between the municipalities signing this compact by their respective chief executive officers, duly authorized, as follows:

(1) Participation in this agreement does not bind any municipality to respond to any given call for assistance.

(2) Requests for assistance shall be directed between the chief executive officers of the involved municipalities. Each such request shall be logged by the sending and requesting municipalities and shall be confirmed in writing by the requesting municipality as soon as possible after such request is made. Each request shall state the police incident at hand, and the numbers of officers and kinds of equipment desired. It shall further state the rank, name and location of the person to whom the personnel of the sending municipality shall report.

(3) Responding officers shall proceed to the indicated location expeditiously and shall promptly place themselves under the indicated command officer of the requesting municipality. Responding officers shall come equipped with uniforms, sidearms, handcuffs, blackjacks, night sticks and such other accoutrements necessary for immediate assignment, and unless recalled earlier by the chief executive of the sending municipality, they shall remain with the requesting municipality until released by the indicated commanding officer of the requesting municipality. The requesting municipality shall record in writing the date and time of arrival, assignment and release of responding officers along with the nature of all assignments made.

(4) Operational plans for providing mutual police assistance shall be prepared by the signatory municipalities and thereafter reviewed and updated at least annually prior to April first of each year.
(5) Payment of services shall be made within 90 days of request for payment to each responding municipality by the requesting municipality. Such payments shall be based upon:

a. The actual payroll cost of personnel assigned;

b. The invoice for replacement of equipment or supplies used or lost to further service;

c. The invoice for repairs of equipment damaged;

d. Awards by due process for damage claims occasioned by use of officers and equipment during such a response.

(6) Municipalities in addition to the original signatories hereto may participate under this compact by submitting an executed copy of this agreement to the participating municipalities.

Sec. 16-2. Request for permission.

[Ord. of 10-14-92]

Any person, group or organization desiring to use the public streets or town property in the Town of Southington for a parade, rally, or for any other reason, including the use of loudspeakers, shall request permission in writing of the chief of police or his designated agent.

Sec. 16-3. Grant of permission.

[Ord. of 10-14-92]

The chief of police or his designated agent, shall satisfy himself as to the safety and welfare of the general public before such permission is granted in writing taking into consideration:

(1) Routing of traffic;

(2) Routing for emergency vehicles;

(3) Adequate detours;

(4) Adequate police protection; and

(5) Date and time in question.

Sec. 16-4. Applicability.

[Ord. of 10-14-92]
The provisions of this article shall not apply to any town property under the jurisdiction of any department or commission having its own regulations regarding these matters.

Sec. 16-5. Enforcement.

[Ord. of 10-14-92]

Any person, group or organization violating any provisions of this article shall be fined no more than $25 for the first violation. Thereafter, a second violation thereof shall lead to a fine of $50 per violation.

Sec. 16-6. through § 16-20. (Reserved)

Article II. Alarm Systems

Sec. 16-21. Definitions.

[Ord. of 10-26-81(2), § 2; Ord. of 10-17-90]

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

ALARM SYSTEMS
An assembly of equipment and devices (or a single device), such as a solid unit, which operates from a 110-volt AC line, arranged to signal the presence of a hazard requiring urgent attention and to which police or fire department personnel are expected to respond. This includes all burglar alarms, fire alarms, holdup alarms and automatic telephone dialer alarms, except this does not include alarm systems on motor vehicles.

ALARM USER
Any person or entity on whose premises any alarm system is maintained within the town. A user can be either an owner of the premises or a tenant in possession of the premises.

ALARM USER'S PERMIT
A written authorization granted by the chief of police or fire chief to install and use an alarm system which is initiated by application of an alarm user.

AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE DIALING DEVICE
Refers to an alarm system that automatically sends, over regular telephone lines, by direct connection or otherwise, a prerecorded voice message or coded signal indicating the existence of the emergency situation that the alarm system is designed to detect.

FALSE ALARM
The activation of an alarm system through mechanical failure, malfunction, improper installation, or the negligence of the owner or lessee of an alarm system, or of his employees or agents. Such terminology does not include, for example, alarms caused by hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes or other normally infrequent violent conditions or acts of God. Excluded from this article are false alarms that are
transmitted with a criminal, malicious or mischievous intent. Such violations will be prosecuted under the applicable general statutes.

The Southington Police Department shall grant permits for alarm systems and establish rules, regulations and fees for the governance thereof. The rules, regulations and fees shall be posted on the town's website.

Sec. 16-22. Intent and purpose.

It is the intent and purpose of this article to:

(1) Provide minimum standards and regulations applicable to users and installers of burglar, fire, holdup and automatic telephone dialer alarms within the town;

(2) Provide penalties for noncompliance; and

(3) Encourage the installation of protective alarm systems in all dwellings and commercial structures.

[Ord. of 10-26-81(2), § 1; Ord. of 10-17-90]

Sec. 16-23. Requirements generally.

(a) No person shall install an alarm system within the town without having been granted an alarm user's permit by the police chief or his designated representative.

(b) No alarm system shall be installed by other than a licensed person or other person meeting the requirements set forth in accordance with the building electrical codes and licensing board of the state.

(c) Applicants having an automatic telephone dialing device shall comply with section 7-282b of the General Statutes (as may from time to time be amended) applying at least 10 days prior to anticipated installation.

(d) Automatic telephone dialing devices shall be programmed to a special telephone number, which is to be designated by the chief of police within 90 days of the effective date of the ordinance from which this article derives. Failure to comply with this section shall be a violation, and penalties will be assessed therefore.

(e) Restrictions on direct connections to police headquarters are as follows:

(1) Only alarms from banks and municipal agencies may be terminated in the police headquarters.

(2) The alarm subscriber approved for a direct connection to police headquarters or the alarm business contracting for servicing the subscriber's alarm system shall be
responsible for obtaining the leased telephone line between subscriber's premises and the alarm receiving equipment at police headquarters, and for furnishing the appropriate interface equipment, if required, in order to provide an input signal that is compatible with the receiving equipment used in the console panel.

(f) Each owner or lessee, at his expense, is required to maintain all components of his alarm system in good working order at all times to ensure that the sensory mechanism used in connection with such device is adjusted to suppress false indications of holdups or intrusions or fire or smoke conditions so that the device will not be activated by impulses due to short flashes of light, wind, noise or vehicular noises unrelated to genuine alarms.

(g) No alarm system designed to transmit emergency messages directly to police headquarters shall be tested without first obtaining permission from the chief of police.

(h) Indicator panel specifications are as follows:

(1) There shall be only one indicator panel, which shall meet the specifications and requirements of the chief of police installed in the communication control center. Such panel shall be installed and maintained by the alarm equipment supplier at no cost to the town.

(2) The number of indicators mounted in such panel shall be limited as the chief of police may deem practical and within the capacity of the police communications center to monitor adequately.

[Ord. of 10-26-81(2), § 1; Ord. of 10-17-90]

Sec. 16-24. Enforcement.

(a) Within 90 days after the effective date of the ordinance from which this article derives, all automatic telephone dialing devices interconnected to or which dial any telephone trunk line answered by any department or agency of the town shall be registered with the police department.

(b) All existing alarm systems shall be registered with the police department within 90 days of the effective date of the ordinance from which this article derives and by means of the alarm user applying for the alarm user's permit. Existing automatic telephone dialing devices which have not been registered within 90 days of such effective date shall not be allowed, nor shall an alarm user's permit be granted.

(c) All alarm systems as defined in this article, which sound an audible signal that may be heard outside the protected premises, shall be equipped with a device that shall limit the duration of such audible signal to not more than 15 minutes. This is in accordance with section 22a-69-5.1 of the administrative regulations of the state department of environmental protection (as may from time to time be amended).
(d) A maximum of four false alarms from any alarm system shall be acceptable. If more than three false alarms are received, the alarm user shall be notified in writing by certified mail, return receipt requested, by the chief of police. Such notification shall require that within seven days of this notification the offending alarm system be inspected and repaired, if necessary, at the expense and by arrangement of the alarm user.

(e) The alarm user referred to in paragraph (d) shall review alarm operation procedures with all persons who operate the alarm system, including, but not limited to, family members, employees and agents. Such alarm user shall respond to the notification in writing within five days once the violation has been corrected. Failure of alarm user to correct the problem and/or respond to such notification shall result in a fine. On receipt of the fifth false alarm at any time, a penalty shall be assessed pursuant to this article.

[Ord. of 10-26-81(2), § 1; Ord. of 10-17-90]

Sec. 16-25. Permit fees.

(a) The fee for an alarm user's permit shall be $5 for a residence and $15 for a commercial establishment, and shall be a one-time charge.

(b) All existing burglar alarm systems that are now directly tied into the burglar alarm panel at police headquarters shall be assessed an initial hook-up fee of $25 and $50 to be paid annually thereafter, which fees shall be paid in advance of each service year. If such fees are not paid within 30 days of the due date, the alarm system shall be disconnected. Such annual fees shall not apply to municipal agencies of the town or nonprofit organizations connected to such panels.

(c) An alarm user's permit shall be denied if the installer has not complied with the state licensing requirements and/or if the installer or alarm user has not complied with the state electrical and building code.

[Ord. of 10-26-81(2), § 1; Ord. of 10-17-90]

Sec. 16-26. Suspension or revocation.

The following shall constitute grounds for suspension and revocation:

(1) The violation of any of the provisions of this article;

(2) The failure to comply with standards or regulations pursuant to this article;

(3) Where alarm system actuates excessive false alarms and thereby constitutes a public nuisance;
(4) Where the applicant or permittee, his employees or agent, has knowingly made any false, misleading or fraudulent statements of material fact in the application for a permit, or in any report or record required to be filed with any town agency; or

(5) Where the applicant or permittee has had a similar type permit previously revoked for good cause.

[Ord. of 10-26-81(2), § 1; Ord. of 10-17-90]

Sec. 16-27. Appeals.

An alarm user may appeal the decision of the police chief within 15 days of notification, but such appeal shall not deter the police action, pending appeal. Appeals shall be directed to the board of police commissioners and shall be acted upon at the next regular meeting of such commission and the commissioners' response shall be within 15 days of that date.

Sec. 16-28. Violations; penalties.

(a) No person shall possess or operate an alarm system as defined in this article without first applying for and obtaining an alarm user's permit in accordance with the provisions of this article.

(b) No alarm user shall operate an alarm system during the period when his permit has been suspended or revoked.

(c) The penalty for operating an alarm system without a permit or while the permit is suspended or revoked, or in violation of any other section of this article, except as otherwise stated, shall be $10 for the first offense and $20 for each false alarm thereafter.

(d) A penalty of $75 shall be assessed for the fifth false alarm from any alarm system and a penalty in accordance with section 1-11 shall be assessed for any false alarm thereafter.

(e) For the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this section, tickets may be issued by any person authorized to issue tickets for parking violations pursuant to this code.

[Ord. of 10-26-81(2), § 8; Ord. of 10-17-90; Ord. of 2-10-97]

Sec. 16-29. Liability.

The town shall not be liable for any defects in operation of any signal line system, for any failure or neglect to respond appropriately upon receipt of an alarm from such source, for any failure or neglect of any person in connection with the installation, operation, disconnecting or removal of equipment, the transmission of alarm signals, or the relaying of such signals or messages.

[Ord. of 10-26-81(2), § 9; Ord. of 10-17-90]
Sec. 16-30. Fire alarms.

This article shall apply to fire alarm systems connected directly to the fire department and where appropriate in this article reference should be made to the fire chief instead of police chief, to the fire department instead of the police department and to the board of fire commissioners instead of the board of police commissioners in the case of fire alarm systems.

[Ord. of 10-26-81(2), § 9; Ord. of 10-17-90]