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Passed 7-0-0 (Rosenbarger, Zulich absent)

Bloomington Common Council Ordinance Number 2026-37

AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 14.40.060 OF TITLE 14 OF THE BLOOMINGTON MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING FALSE EMERGENCY ALARMS

Preamble

WHEREAS, the Bloomington Fire Department, referred to as "Fire," has previously established Peace and Safety standards under Bloomington Municipal Code 14.40; and

WHEREAS, Fire updated and modernized fire safety and enforcement measures within the code in an effort to promote continued fire safety; and

WHEREAS, there has been a repeal and re-enactment of Title 18 and an addition of a non-reverting fire fund; and

WHEREAS, enforcement of violations for false alarms is a key component of ensuring public safety and prevention of false fire alarms; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to update Title 14 to be consistent with Title 18 and to include the Fire Department's ability to enforce where false fire alarms occur more than four times in a calendar year; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment to Title 14 of the Bloomington Municipal Code has been duly considered by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington.

Be It Ordained by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, That:

SECTION 1. Title 14 of the Bloomington Municipal Code entitled "Peace and Safety," Chapter 14.40 "False Emergency Alarms," Section 14.40.060(a) and (b) "Violation," shall be amended to read as follows:

14.40.060 - Violation

(a) The Fire Chief, their designee, or any police officer may issue a notice of violation ("NOV") of the Bloomington Municipal Code after the fourth or subsequent false alarm has been made, to any person who controls the property. Such notice may be served in person or by certified mail.

(b) The fine for an ordinance violation as the result of the fourth Police False Alarm in a calendar year at the same location would be subject to a fine of $150, with each

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subsequent false alarm incurring a fine of $200. The fourth Fire False Alarm in a calendar year at the same location shall be subject to the fines listed in the Bloomington Municipal Code Title 18.

The fines shall be paid to the Bloomington Police Department in the case of a Police False Alarm or to the Bloomington Fire Department in the case of a Fire False Alarm, within thirty days of the issuance of the citation, in full satisfaction of the assessed penalty. In the event that such payment is not made within the prescribed period, the matter will be referred to the City Legal department for appropriate legal proceedings.

(c) For the purpose of citation accrual, a new period shall start at the beginning of each calendar year.

(Ord. 03-25 §§ 3, 4, 2003; Ord. 99-41 § 5, 1999; Ord. 94-25 § 1, 1994; Ord. 90-50 § 1, 1990; Ord. 90-26 § 1 (part), 1990).

Severability

If any section, sentence, or provision of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be declared invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any of the other sections, sentences, provisions, or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

Effective Date

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, approval of the Mayor, publication in accordance with State law.

Passed

Passed by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this 4th day of November, ~~[Year]~~. 2026

Signature of Common Council President ~~[Full Name]~~ Isak Nti Asare

Signed by:
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Attestation of Bloomington City Clerk

Signed by:
Nicole Bolden
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11/9/2026 | 5:13 PM EST

Signature of Bloomington City Clerk ~~[Full Name]~~ Nicole Bolden

Presentation by Bloomington City Clerk:

Presented by me to the Mayor of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this day of , [Year].

Signed by:
Nicole Bolden
60DF9211B070448...
11/9/2026 | 5:13 PM EST

Signature of Bloomington City Clerk ~~[Full Name]~~ Nicole Bolden

Approval by the Mayor:

Signed and approved by me on this day of ~~,[Year]~~. 2026

Signed by:
2ABC5816C245416...
11/13/2026 | 3:02 PM EST

Signature of Mayor ~~[Full Name]~~ Kerry Thomson

Synopsis

This Ordinance, sponsored by Councilmember Stosberg, amends Section 14.40.060 (a) and (b) of Title 14 of the Bloomington Municipal Code, entitled "Peace and Safety," to allow specific Fire personnel to issue a notice of violation; refer all fine language to Title 18; and add clarification to cases of Fire False Alarms.

Distributed to: Clerk, Council Attorney, Fire, Legal, and Mayor.

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14.40.060 - Violation.

(a) The Fire Chief, their designee, or any ~~Any~~ police officer may issue a notice of ~~ordinance~~ violation ("NOV") of the Bloomington Municipal Code after the fourth or subsequent false alarm has been made, to any person who controls the property. Such notice may be served in person or by certified mail.

(b)The fine for an ordinance violation as the result of the fourth ~~police false alarm or~~ Police False Alarm in a calendar year at the same location would be subject to a fine of $150, with each subsequent false alarm incurring a fine of $200. The fourth F~~f~~ire F~~f~~alse A~~a~~larm in a calendar year at the same location shall be ~~fifty dollars. The fine for the fifth and each subsequent false alarm in each category shall be one hundred dollars each. The~~ subject to the fines listed in the Bloomington Municipal Code Title 18. The fines shall be paid to the Bloomington P~~p~~olice D~~d~~epartment in the case of a Police False Alarm or to the Bloomington Fire Department in the case of a Fire False Alarm, within thirty days of the issuance of the citation, in full satisfaction of the assessed penalty. In the event that such payment is not made within the prescribed period, the matter will be referred to the City ~~to City the city~~ legal department for appropriate legal proceedings.

(c)For the purpose of citation accrual, a new period shall start at the beginning of each calendar year.

(Ord. 03-25 §§ 3, 4, 2003; Ord. 99-41 § 5, 1999; Ord. 94-25 § 1, 1994; Ord. 90-50 § 1, 1990; Ord. 90-26 § 1 (part), 1990).