



MEMORANDUM

From the Office of the
Township Manager

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FROM: CHRISTOPHER BASHORE
RE: FALSE ALARM FEES ASSOCIATED WITH THE WEST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT
DATE: MAY 2, 2023

Before the Board of Supervisors this evening is discussion regarding false alarm fees/fines assessed by the West Goshen Township Police Department. Currently, fines associated with false alarms are outlined in the Township's fee schedule and the rates for the Police Department are as follows:

- 1st false alarm per calendar year – Warning
- 2nd & 3rd false alarm per calendar year – \$50 per alarm
- 4th thru 7th false alarm per calendar year – \$100 per alarm
- 8th & subsequent alarms per calendar year – \$200 per alarm

In order to assess the Township's false alarm fees/fines, I reviewed the fines imposed by other comparable communities in Chester County. Please see the information below:

West Chester Borough

- 1st false alarm per calendar year – Warning
- 2nd false alarm per calendar year – \$50
- 3rd & 4th false alarm per calendar year – \$100 per alarm
- 5th & subsequent alarms per calendar year – \$250 per alarm

East Goshen Township

- 1st & 2nd false alarm per calendar year – Warning
- 3rd & 4th false alarm per calendar year – \$100 per alarm
- 5th & 6th false alarm per calendar year – \$200 per alarm
- 7th & subsequent alarms per calendar year – \$500 per alarm

Tredyffrin Township

- **Single family dwelling unit**
 - 1st false alarm per calendar year – Warning
 - 2nd false alarm per calendar year – \$75
 - 3rd false alarm per calendar year – \$100
 - 4th false alarm per calendar year – \$125
 - 5th false alarm per calendar year – \$150
 - 6th false alarm per calendar year – \$175
 - 7th & subsequent alarms per calendar year – \$200 per alarm

- **Multifamily dwelling unit**
 - 1st false alarm per calendar year – Warning
 - 2nd false alarm per calendar year – \$200
 - 3rd false alarm per calendar year – \$300
 - 4th false alarm per calendar year – \$400
 - 5th false alarm per calendar year – \$600
 - 6th false alarm per calendar year – \$850
 - 7th & subsequent alarms per calendar year – \$1,100 per alarm

East Whiteland Township

- 1st false alarm per calendar year – Warning
- 2nd false alarm per calendar year – \$50
- 3rd false alarm per calendar year – \$100
- 4th false alarm per calendar year – \$150
- 5th false alarm per calendar year – \$200
- 6th false alarm per calendar year – \$250
- 7th & subsequent alarms per calendar year – \$300 per alarm

Westtown Township

- **Residential**
 - 1st & 2nd false alarm per calendar year – Warning
 - 3rd false alarm per calendar year – \$75
 - 4th false alarm per calendar year – \$100
 - 5th false alarm per calendar year – \$125
 - 6th false alarm per calendar year – \$150
 - 7th & subsequent alarms per calendar year – \$175 per alarm
- **Non-Residential**
 - 1st & 2nd false alarm per calendar year – Warning
 - 3rd false alarm per calendar year – \$600
 - 4th false alarm per calendar year – \$600
 - 5th false alarm per calendar year – \$600
 - 6th false alarm per calendar year – \$600
 - 7th & subsequent alarms per calendar year – \$600 per alarm

Willistown Township

- \$20 per call

In reviewing the information from these municipalities, the current fees appear to be slightly lower in certain respects, but comparable to other municipalities. While I will note that certain municipalities separate between residential and non-residential or single family and multifamily, I would caution the Board against doing this because, in speaking with Chief Carroll, the response from the Police Department does not change. As such, I do not believe it would be permissible to charge a different fine.

Chief Carroll undertook research of the calls over the last 12 months and noted that the vast majority of activations occurred at commercial establishments. Only a small number of residential properties had more than two (2) during that period and hardly any had more than three (3). This indicates to us that most residents do correct the issues after one (1) or two (2) activations. Chief Carroll's recommendation would be to increase the fines on those with more than two (2) false alarms in a calendar year.

I would recommend that the Board discuss this information and the fee schedule may be adjusted based on the discussion.

Please let me know if you have questions. Thank you.