

ORDINANCE NO. 1186

**AN ORDINANCE REGULATING NUISANCE FIRE ALARMS AT COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES AND ESTABLISHING PENALTIES FOR EXCESSIVE FALSE ALARMS IN THE CITY OF YATES CENTER, KANSAS**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Yates Center, Kansas, finds that excessive false or nuisance fire alarms create unnecessary demands on emergency services, disrupt public safety operations, and impose undue costs on the City; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the public interest to establish regulations discouraging repeated false or nuisance fire alarms at commercial properties;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF YATES CENTER, KANSAS, AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this ordinance, the following definitions shall apply:

1. **False Alarm** – Any activation of a fire alarm system that results in an emergency response when no actual fire, smoke, or hazard exists.
2. **Nuisance Alarm** – Any fire alarm activation caused by system malfunctions, improper maintenance, employee error, construction work, or other non-emergency activities that do not require fire department intervention.
3. **Commercial Property** – Any non-residential building, structure, or premises subject to city licensing, permits, or commercial use regulations.

**SECTION 2. NUISANCE FIRE ALARM REGULATIONS**

A. It shall be unlawful for any commercial property within the City of Yates Center to generate three (3) or more false alarms or nuisance alarms within any consecutive 365-day period.

B. The Fire Department shall maintain records of all alarm activations, and upon the third false or nuisance alarm within a 365-day period, the property owner shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Section 3.

**SECTION 3. PENALTIES FOR EXCESSIVE FALSE ALARMS**

A. A fine of **\$500** and/or a 30-day jail sentence may be imposed upon the property owner upon the third false or nuisance alarm in a 365-day period.

B. Each subsequent false or nuisance alarm beyond the third within the same 365-day period shall be subject to an additional fine of **\$1,000 per occurrence**.

**SECTION 4. COLLECTION OF FINES AND ENFORCEMENT**

A. Any fine not paid within **ninety (90) days** of issuance shall be assessed as a special charge against the property and added to the owner’s property taxes.

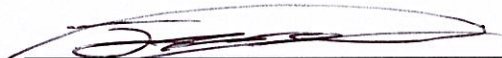
B. At any time a fine remains unpaid beyond **ninety (90) days**, the property owner shall be ineligible to:

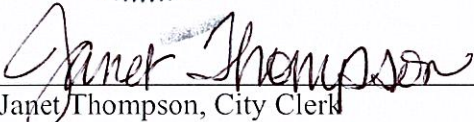
1. Conduct business within the City of Yates Center.
2. Obtain or renew a **certificate of occupancy** for the subject property.
3. Receive or renew any **city-issued license or permit** applicable to the property or business operation.

C. If fines remain unpaid for more than **ninety (90) days**, the owner shall be required to **reapply for all revoked or denied permits and licenses** upon full settlement of outstanding fines.

Passed by the Governing Body of the City of Yates Center, Kansas, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025, and approved by the Mayor on such date.



  
JUSTIN W. WESTON, MAYOR

  
Janet Thompson, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Brian P. Duncan, City Attorney