

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 176 “FIRE PREVENTION”
TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS GOVERNING FALSE ALARMS**

WHEREAS, the Director of Community Development, in conjunction with the Fire Official, finds that the resources of the township and its emergency services are unduly burdened by false fire alarms; and

WHEREAS, it is in the municipal interest to reduce the number of calls by first responders and overall better serve and protect all property owners where a fire emergency response is duly required;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of North Brunswick, County of Middlesex and State of New Jersey, that Chapter 176, Fire Prevention, be amended and supplemented with a new article and section as follows:

Article III False Alarms

§ 176-35 Definitions

FALSE FIRE ALARM – An alarm for which there is no evidence of smoke or fire or for which there is evidence of any equipment failure or evidence of inadvertence of the part of the property owner, agents, servants and employees and which registers in or is called 911 or the Police Department with a fire company responding to the location of the alarm.

§ 176-36 Investigations and Reports

In the case of false alarms which summon the Police or Fire Department to investigate, the Chief of Police or his/her designee shall cause an investigation to be made and shall keep a record of such alarms on file. Such records shall be prima facie evidence of the contents thereof and shall be directed to the Fire Marshal for review and enforcement for false fire alarms.

§ 176-37 Violations and Penalties

A. False alarms shall generate the following penalties:

- (1) For the first through fourth false alarms, inclusive, in any given calendar year, no penalty shall be imposed. For the fourth alarm within a given calendar year, a written warning of the content of this chapter shall be provided to the property owner and tenant(s).
- (2) For the fifth, sixth and seventh false alarms, the penalty shall be \$250.00 per false alarm.
- (3) For the eighth, ninth and 10th false alarms, the penalty shall be \$500.00 per false alarm.

(4) For the 11th false alarm and each subsequent false alarm, the penalty shall be no less \$1,000.00 per false alarm.

B. The public schools and other buildings owned and used by the North Brunswick Township Board of Education shall be exempt from the provisions of this section.

§ 176-38 Enforcement

The Fire Marshal and/or his designee shall be responsible for enforcing §176-37 Violations and Penalties.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, If any section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged by the courts to be invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section paragraph, subsection, clause or provision so adjudicated, and the remainder of the Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, Any ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are repealed to the extent of such conflict.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, This Ordinance shall take effect on January 1, 2025, upon passage and publication in accordance with applicable law.

TITLE

This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the
“Ordinance Amending Chapter 176 “Fire Prevention” to Establish Regulations Governing
False Alarms

Michael C. Hritz
Director of Community Development

Daryle Masters
Fire Official

Justine Progebin
Business Administrator

Ronald Gordon, Township Attorney
(Approved legal form)

RECORDED VOTE FIRST READING: September 3, 2024

COUNCIL MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	NOTES
HUTCHINSON				
GUADAGNINO				
ANDREWS				
DAVIS				
SOCIO				
MEHTA				
MAYOR WOMACK				

RECORDED VOTE SECOND READING: September 16, 2024

COUNCIL MEMBER	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	NOTES
HUTCHINSON				
GUADAGNINO				
ANDREWS				
DAVIS				
SOCIO				
MEHTA				
MAYOR WOMACK				

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above Ordinance was duly adopted by the Township Council of the Township of North Brunswick, County of Middlesex, at its meeting held on September 16, 2024.

Lisa Russo, Township Clerk

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall take effect January 1, 2025, upon passage and publication in accordance with applicable law.

- APPROVED
- REJECTED

Francis M. Womack III, Mayor
Township of North Brunswick

Date signed: _____, 2024