

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN

DATE: April 27, 2026

FROM: Dale Lane, Police Chief

SUBJECT: Ordinance 2026-05 - **First Reading** - An Ordinance to Amend Section §91.25 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Collierville Regarding False Alarm Fees

INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this ordinance is to amend the Collierville Municipal Code to increase the penalty for repeated false alarms. The proposed amendment raises the penalty to \$50 per occurrence for alarm users who experience three (3) or more false alarms within a twelve (12) month period.

BACKGROUND:

The Town of Collierville continues to experience a significant number of false alarm calls for service requiring response from both the Police and Fire Departments. These calls require personnel to respond and investigate, taking resources away from priority calls for service and other proactive efforts.

Since 2022, false alarm calls have remained consistently high:

2022 – 2,324

2023 – 2,379

2024 – 2,043

2025 – 2,176

2026 – 792 (as of April 13)

The current ordinance provides a progressive enforcement structure, with penalties beginning after multiple false alarms within a twelve (12) month period. However, the existing penalty amount has had limited impact on reducing repeat false alarm activity.

DISCUSSION:

False alarm calls for service continue to place a measurable demand on both police and fire resources. Each response requires personnel to be dispatched, respond to the scene, and ensure there is no active emergency. For police responses, two officers are typically dispatched to alarm calls. For fire responses, depending on the type of alarm, two or more stations may be dispatched. While necessary for public safety, these responses reduce the availability of officers and firefighters for priority calls and other proactive efforts within the community.

Analysis of call data shows that a relatively small number of alarm users are responsible for a disproportionate number of repeat false alarms. The current penalty structure, which begins after multiple false alarms, has not been sufficient to change behavior among these repeat offenders.

The proposed increase to \$50 per occurrence for alarm users with three (3) or more false alarms within a twelve (12) month period reflects the maximum penalty allowed under Tennessee Code Annotated § 62-32-321. This ensures the Town is utilizing the full extent of its authority to address repeat false

alarms while remaining in compliance with state law. This proposed amendment has been reviewed and discussed with Town Attorney Nathan Bicks.

This item is an amendment to the Town’s ordinance and will require approval through three readings by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen before final adoption.

Increasing the penalty is intended to encourage proper maintenance of alarm systems and responsible use. The proposed amendment maintains the existing progressive warning structure, ensuring that alarm users are provided notice and opportunity to correct issues before penalties are assessed. This approach balances accountability with fairness while supporting the efficient use of public safety resources.

BUDGET IMPACT:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

[Ordinance 2026-05 - Redline Version.pdf](#)

[Ordinance 2026-05 - Clean Version.pdf](#)

[Ordinance 2026-05.pdf](#)

PROPOSED MOTION:

To approve Ordinance 2026-05 on first reading.

Board Action: Motion By _____ Seconded By _____

Vote Total	Hall	Jordan	Robbins	Marshall	Stamps	Fraser
Yes						
No						
Abstain						