



GREATER SUDBURY POLICE SERVICE BOARD BY-LAW BY-LAW 2025-008

A By-Law to establish a system for the Verified Security Alarm Response Program and reduction of false alarms.

WHEREAS the Police Service Board is responsible for the provision of police services within the City of Greater Sudbury;

AND WHEREAS the Police Service Board may, by by-law, make rules for the effective management of the police force, pursuant to section 46(1) of the *Community Safety and Policing Act*;

AND WHEREAS the Police Service Board may pass by-laws imposing fees or charges for services or activities provided by or on behalf of it, pursuant to section 391 (1.1) of the *Municipal Act*;

AND WHEREAS the number of false alarms in The City of Greater Sudbury has been identified as consuming a significant quality of police resources which could be better directed to enhancing the police presence in the community;

AND WHEREAS the Verified Security Alarm Response Program is an integral part of the strategy to reduce the number of false alarms in the City of Greater Sudbury;

NOW THEREFORE the Greater Sudbury Police Service Board enacts as follows:

1.0 DEFINITIONS

ALARM COORDINATOR

A member appointed by the Chief of Police who has been designated to administer the Verified Security Alarm Response Program to monitor the response of the Police Service.

ALARM COMPANY

Means any business which engages in the monitoring of alarm systems and notifies the police when an alarm system has been activated.

ALARM MONITORING SERVICE

Means an independent company which can supply 24 hour security alarm monitoring for residential and commercial clients and who notifies police when an alarm system has been activated.

BOARD

Means the Greater Sudbury Police Service Board.

CANCELLED ACCEPTED ALARM

Means a request received from alarm company, alarm monitoring service or home/business owner to cancel police response to an alarm signal after the police have been dispatched to the premises but prior to the arrival of the police at the premises.

CANCELLED ALARM

Means a request is received from an alarm company, alarm monitoring service or home/business owner to cancel police response to an alarm signal prior to police being dispatched.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Means the Chief of Police of Greater Sudbury Police Service, or his or her designate.

FALSE ALARM

Means an alarm which police determine resulted from anything other than an unauthorized entry or unlawful act, imminent threat to personal safety, medical or fire emergency including:

- a. An alarm system activated unnecessarily, improperly or for a purpose other than for which the alarm device or system was installed, carried or worn;
- b. The alarm company or alarm system user were testing an alarm without prior knowledge of the police service;
- c. Where no evidence exists of criminal activity or imminent threat to personal safety, which the system was installed or used to warn of;
- d. An alarm system actually or apparently activated by mechanical failure, malfunction or faulty equipment;
- e. An alarm activated by negligence or carelessness; or
- f. An alarm system actually or apparently activated by atmospheric conditions, excessive vibrations or power failure.

POLICE SERVICE

Means the Greater Sudbury Police Service.

SECURITY ALARM SYSTEM

An assembly of mechanical and/or electronical devices which are designated or used for the detection of unauthorized entry or damage to any building, structure or premises or for alerting others to the commission of an unlawful act, or both, which emits a sound

or transmit a signal or message when activated. It also means a panic alarm, which is activated by an individual, whose primary purpose is the protection of the person.

AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE (ATM)

Means a stand- alone device used to dispense or receive cash.

2.0 VERIFIED SECURITY ALARM RESPONSE PROGRAM

- 2.1 The Chief of Police shall establish a Verified Security Alarm Response Program.
- 2.2 There shall be an Alarm Coordinator who shall be appointed by the Chief of Police who shall maintain and administer the Verified Security Alarm Response Program and carry out such other duties in respect of this By-Law as assigned by the Chief of Police.
- 2.3 It shall be recommended that every owner or occupant of premises on which is installed a security alarm system subscribe with an alarm company or alarm monitoring service and provide current keyholder information to the alarm company or alarm monitoring service. to ensure an appropriate response and prevent alarm system owners from incurring unnecessary fees.
- 2.4 The alarm company or alarm monitoring service or persons who names are provided pursuant to subsection 2.3 shall be:
 - a. Available to receive telephone calls from the police in the event of an alarm incident;
 - b. Able to attend at the address of the alarm incident within 30 minutes of being requested to do so by the police;
 - c. Capable of affording police access to the premises where the security alarm system is installed; and
 - d. Capable of operating the security alarm system and able to safeguard the premises.
- 2.5 Alarm companies and alarm monitoring services (where alarms are monitored) shall be required to sign a Service Agreement with the Greater Sudbury Police Service Board.
- 2.6 The alarm company or alarm monitoring service shall provide the Board with a Certificate of Insurance evidencing coverage from January 1st of each year for the duration of the agreement.
- 2.7 If an alarm system is installed by an individual tenant in a multiple dwelling unit which is monitored by an alarm company or alarm monitoring service, the tenant must provide the name of the owner or property manager to the alarm company or alarm monitoring service.

- 2.8 For the purposes of this By-Law the tenant is responsible for any false alarms emitted from the alarm system in the tenant's residential unit.
- 2.9 All ATMs must be registered separately from any other alarm system located at an alarm site.
- 2.10 Alarm companies, alarm monitoring services and home/business owners of premises where unmonitored residential or business alarms will be required to verify any alarm signal and verify a criminal offence has occurred or is occurring or there is an imminent threat to personal safety, medical or fire emergency through a verified response such as:
- a. Audio signal (confirmation of criminal activity by sounds detected within the premises);
 - b. Video signal (confirmation of criminal activity through visual images);
 - c. On-scene witnesses;
 - d. Multiple alarm activation points (at a minimum 2 separate/different sensors in a manner or sequence which indicates suspected criminal activity).
- 2.11 If a panic, hold-up or duress alarm is received, verification will not be required and emergency response will be initiated.
- 2.12 An audible alarm called in by a third party with no suspicious circumstances shall be considered a noise complaint.

3.0 FALSE ALARM FEES

- 3.1 Where the Police Service attends at a building, structure or premises as a result of an Alarm Incident that is a False Alarm, a fee as set out in Schedule "A" alarm company, alarm monitoring service or home/business owner if alarm is not monitored. A partial fee shall be charged as set out in Schedule "A" for alarm calls which are cancelled after officers have been dispatched but have not yet attended on scene.
- 3.2 Any collection costs for fees or charges imposed pursuant to this By-Law that are due and unpaid shall be added to the outstanding amount.
- 3.3 Any fees or charges imposed pursuant to this By-Law and may be collected in like manner as municipal taxes, or by a collection agency.
- 3.4 Schedule "A" is attached to and forms part of this By-Law.
- 3.5 The requirements of this By-Law are severable. If any requirements of this By-Law are held invalid, the application of such requirements to other circumstances and the remainder of this by-law shall not be affected.

- 3.6 This By-Law is not to be constructed at any time in such a fashion as to hold the Police Service or its officers liable for failing to ensure that persons comply with the provisions of this By-Law.
- 3.7 This By-Law shall come into force and take effect on the date upon approval by the City Council.
- 3.8 Information collected as a result of the operation of this by-law shall be governed by the provisions of the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

4.0 EFFECTIVE DATE

- 4.1 By-Law 2002-1, as amended, and all By-Laws, sections of By-Laws and procedural policies of the Board inconsistent with the provisions of this By-Law are hereby repealed.
- 4.2 This By-Law shall come into effect on passage.

BY-LAW passed by the Greater Sudbury Police Service Board, this 17th day of December 2025.



Gerry Lougheed, Jr., Chair



Matthew Gatien, Board Administrator

SCHEDULE A

VERIFIED SECURITY ALARM RESPONSE PROGRAM
FALSE ALARM FEES – EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025

False Alarm Attendance Fee	\$160.00 plus H.S.T
Cancelled Accepted False Alarm Fee	\$80.00 plus H.S.T