



ORDINANCE 07-2026

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 106 OF THE VILLAGE OF COTTAGE GROVE CODE OF ORDINANCES

The Village Board of the Village of Cottage Grove, Dane County, Wisconsin, does hereby ordain as follows:

Section I: Section 106-2 of the Village of Cottage Grove Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

§ 106-2 **Definitions.**

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

ALARM SYSTEM

An alarm device that requires emergency response, investigation and safeguarding of persons and property at the location of an event reported by a signal which is transmitted by telephone line or otherwise relayed to the police communication center, fire department or other Village emergency response personnel from a mechanical or electronic alarm device. "Alarm System" does not include residential smoke and fire detectors and similar alarms where the primary purpose of the system is alerting residents to danger and do not have an external signal or transmit an alarm or signal to another location.

FALSE SIGNAL

A signal which is emitted by an ~~intrusion, fire, holdup or other~~ alarm system which is not the result of an intrusion by persons, a fire, ~~or~~ a holdup, or other emergency. A signal is emitted for the purposes of this chapter when it is directly transmitted to the ~~Law Enforcement-Police~~ Department or Fire Department or transmitted to any person who subsequently reports such signal to the ~~Law Enforcement-Police~~ Department or Fire Department.

OWNER

The person or legal entity that owns the property from which the false signal is emitted, except that, if the premises are leased or rented, the lessee or occupant of the property or part thereof from which the false signal is emitted shall be deemed the owner.

Section II: Section 106-3 of the Village of Cottage Grove Code of Ordinances is amended to read as follows:

§ 106-3 Responsibility for operation of alarm systems.

No person shall cause a false signal or allow a false signal to occur. Upon a finding that a signal from an alarm system is a false signal, the ~~Law Enforcement~~ Police Department shall notify the building owner and, if applicable, the responsible building tenant, of the false signal. It shall then be the responsibility of the owner. The owner and/or tenant must take immediate action to secure the building and prevent additional false signals.—A building owner shall also be liable for each false signal violation. Each false signal incident shall constitute a violation of this chapter and qualify as an occurrence subject to the progressive enforcement schedule in § 106-4.

Section III: Section 106-4 of the Village of Cottage Grove Code of Ordinances is repealed and recreated to read as follows:

§ 106-4 Violations and penalties.

- A. Any person who violates the provisions of this chapter regarding false signals shall be subject to the progressive enforcement schedule based on the number of false signals within a calendar year. The penalties are as follows:
- (1) First False Signal: Verbal warning.
 - (2) Second False Signal: Written warning.
 - (3) Third False Signal: Citation with a fine amount of \$250.00.
 - (4) Fourth False Signal: Citation with a fine amount of \$250.00.
 - (5) Fifth False Signal: Citation with a fine amount of \$500.00.
 - (6) Sixth False Signal: Citation with a fine amount of \$500.00.
 - (7) Seventh and Subsequent False Signal: Citation with a fine amount of \$1,000.00 per offense.
- B. At the start of the new calendar year, the progressive enforcement schedule will be reset for each person with two or fewer violations. However, if a person had three or more violations in the previous calendar year, those violations will carry

forward to the next calendar year and the enforcement schedule will not reset for that person.

Section IV: Section 106-5 of the Village of Cottage Grove Code of Ordinances is created to read as follows:

§ 106-5 Alarm System Permits.

- A. Permit required. No person may install, operate, or cause to be operated, an alarm system for any building or structure within the Village without a valid alarm user permit issued by the Village. Permits shall be valid from January 1 through December 31, and will be issued by the Village Chief of Police.
- B. Fee. The permit fee shall be set by the Village Board as part of the Village's fee schedule and may be updated from time to time.
- C. Existing alarm systems. Any alarm systems installed and operating prior to **[INSERT DATE OF ADOPTION]** shall be exempt from the permit requirements of this section until December 31, 2027. Following that date, all alarm systems must comply with the permit requirement.
- D. Application requirements and procedure. An application for a permit shall be made by the owner or the owner's agent of each structure, facility or dwelling unit to be permitted on forms provided by the Village. Such application shall contain specific information on the nature of the business or facility to be protected, the identity of any occupant of a dwelling unit to be permitted if other than the owner, the nature of the alarm device, the type of occurrence to be detected, and other information which may be reasonably necessary for the safe and effective response to alarm signals by emergency personnel.
- E. Denials and revocations; appeals. A permit under this section may be denied or revoked by the Chief of Police if the application contains incomplete or false information or if five or more false signals have occurred within the previous calendar year, provided that a revocation be made only after the Village provided 15 days written notice to the permit holder of the revocation, and the permit holder has been afforded an opportunity for a hearing before the Chief of Police. Any applicant or permit holder denied or revoked may appeal the decision of the Chief of Police to the Village Board within 30 days after the date of action by the Chief of Police and may appear before the Village Board at a time and place to be determined by the Village to show why the permit should not have been denied or revoked. The decision of the Village Board shall be final.

Section V: This ordinance shall take effect upon compliance with the publication/posting requirements of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Adopted on this 6th day of April 2026

BY ORDER OF THE VILLAGE BOARD
VILLAGE OF COTTAGE GROVE

Cynthia Kelm-Nelson, Village President

ATTEST:

Lisa Kalata, Village Clerk