

Dear Residents of the Village of Royal Palm Beach:

As the Commander of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) District 9 Substation, I am contacting you regarding important information about your burglar alarm. Recently, the County adopted County Alarm Ordinance 2008-038 which by its terms provides for enforcement by the PBSO within the Village of Royal Palm Beach (the "Village") since the Village has contracted with PBSO for the provision of law enforcement services.

"How does that affect you?" Since an open line of communication between law enforcement and the residents/business owners in the Village has been one of my main goals, please let me assist in explaining the process.

On October 1, 2008, the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners revised the Palm Beach County Burglar Alarm Ordinance as referenced above. The revisions to the ordinance were effective October 1, 2008, but the residents and businesses within the Village Royal Palm Beach were granted temporary reprieve in compliance with the ordinance's provisions and alarm registration. Residents and business owners will have to register their active burglar alarm with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Alarm Unit. Enforcement of the ordinance will begin in the Village on March 1, 2009.

The registration process can be completed by mailing the application and a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) check made payable to: Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, c/o Accounting Department, P.O. Box 24681, West Palm Beach, Florida 33416-4681. Should the application and fee not arrive, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office will discontinue response to alarms that may occur at the premises. However, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office will continue to respond to all 911 calls, all robbery/panic duress and hold up alarms. These alarm activations require an intentional act by a person on the premises to activate the alarm, even if the alarm user is on "No Response Status."

Last year alone, the deputies in District 9 (the Village) responded to over 2,500 FALSE ALARMS. In many circumstances, the alarms were set off due to error, poorly working/installed alarms or other reasons that could have been easily avoided. In each case, deputies from PBSO responded to the false alarms over and over again (in some instances several times in one day) when they could have been patrolling high profile areas or responding to high priority calls.

The new ordinance was enacted by the County in an attempt to reduce law enforcement response to false alarm activations. Studies have suggested that more than 97% of all alarm activations are false alarms, which unnecessarily stress law enforcement resources and waste valuable tax dollars. The Alarm Ordinance encourages alarm users to repair defective alarm systems and learn correct system operation. The ordinance describes the fines that may be assessed to users who allow continuous false alarm activations. Please log onto [www.pbso.org](http://www.pbso.org) to review the alarm ordinance and download an alarm permit application or if it is more convenient for you, these documents may be obtained at our office located at Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, District 9, Village of Royal Palm Beach, 11498 Okeechobee Blvd., Royal Palm Beach, Florida 33411.

False Alarms within a permit year for the same alarm permit shall be subject to the following fines:

1. The first and second false alarm shall not be assessed a fine.
2. The third and fourth false alarm shall each be assessed a \$50 fine.
3. The fifth false alarm shall be assessed a \$75 fine.
4. The sixth through ninth false alarm shall each be assessed a \$100 fine.
5. The tenth and all subsequent false alarms shall each be assessed a \$500 fine.

A alarm activation from an alarm system that has not been registered is subject to a civil penalty of \$260.00 for each activation. It is imperative that all residents and businesses register their alarm system in compliance with the ordinance.

All revenue received by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office for permit applications fees, renewal fees and fines, less administrative costs, are returned to the Village. If you have any questions, please contact the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Alarm Unit, Monday - Friday, from 8am to 5pm, at 561-688-3695.

Sincerely,  
Captain Tony Araujo