

CODE

CITY OF REDMOND
ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF REDMOND,
WASHINGTON, ADDING RMC 9.52, MISUSE OF 911
EMERGENCY CALL SYSTEM TO PROVIDE DEFINITIONS
AND PENALTIES FOR THE MISUSE OF 911 EMERGENCY
SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 9A.84.040 defines false reporting as knowingly submitting a false report that is likely to cause an emergency response via the activation of the 911 emergency call system; and

WHEREAS, responding to such false reports increases the risk of harm to the general population as well as the emergency responders; and

WHEREAS, such responses needlessly engage and expend limited public safety resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF REDMOND, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Classification. This ordinance is of a general and permanent nature and shall become a part of the City Code.

Section 2. Addition of Sub-Section. RMC 9.52, Misuse of 911 Emergency Call System, is hereby adopted to read as follows:

Chapter 9.52, MISUSE OF 911 EMERGENCY CALL SYSTEM

A. Purpose. This chapter is intended to reduce the number of false requests for emergency assistance, or similar misuse of the 911 emergency response system, which occur within the city and result in waste of city resources or the creation of a public safety risk by providing for corrective administrative action, to include certain potential consequences for such misuse. This chapter shall not be applicable to mechanical activations of requests for assistance, nor shall it be interpreted to impose liability on any person who makes a good faith request for emergency assistance based on a reasonable, factual basis that an emergency situation exists.

B. Definitions. The following persons or words used in this chapter shall be defined as set forth in this section:

1. "Emergency" means an event or set of circumstances which demands immediate action to preserve public health, life, public or private property.

2. "Person" includes any natural person, partnership, joint stock company, unincorporated association of society, or corporation of any character whatsoever; and

3. "Misuse of the 911 system" is a request for emergency response when no emergency exists and when the caller does not have a good faith basis to request emergency

assistance. This definition includes false reporting, as that term is defined under RCW 9A.84.040, and telephone harassment, as that term is defined under RCW 9.61.230.

C. Misuse of the 911 system - Designated: It shall be unlawful for any person to misuse the 911 system. It shall be an affirmative defense that the person charged has a good faith, reasonable, factual basis for the request.

D. Notice. Upon response to a premises at which a request for emergency assistance has been made by misuse of the 911 system, notice of the conditions and requirements of this chapter shall be given to the person requesting emergency assistance. The notice shall indicate the penalty imposed by this chapter and include information on accessing community resource programs and the 211 Community Information Line.

E. Penalties. Violations of this chapter are subject to the general penalty imposed by RMC 1.01.110. In addition to such penalty, the city may impose the following administrative sanctions upon any person who misuses the emergency response system:

1. Unless otherwise provided in this chapter or by state statute adopted by reference, any person identified as misusing the 911 system more than five (5) times in a ninety (90) day period may be required to reimburse the City

**for the cost of emergency response with a minimum duration of
no less than one hour.**

Section 3. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance.

Section 4. Effective date. This ordinance shall become effective five days after its publication, or publication of a summary thereof, in the city's official newspaper, or as otherwise provided by law.

ADOPTED by the Redmond City Council this _____ day of
_____, 20XX.

CITY OF REDMOND

ANGELA BIRNEY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CHERYL XANTHOS, MMC, CITY CLERK

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JAMES HANEY, CITY ATTORNEY

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK:
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL:
SIGNED BY THE MAYOR:
PUBLISHED:
EFFECTIVE DATE:
ORDINANCE NO.