

ORDINANCE NO. 1008

**AN ORDINANCE MAKING THE INVALID, NON-EMERGENCY,
OR ABUSIVE USE OF THE 9-1-1 EMERGENCY SYSTEM
OF THE TOWN OF ST. JOHN, INDIANA, AN INFRACTION,
IMPOSING A FINE FOR VIOLATION THEREOF, AND
REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH**

WHEREAS, the Town of St. John has established a 9-1-1 Emergency System to provide a system for reporting emergency conditions to the residents of the Town of St. John; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that approximately forty percent (40%) of the calls received by the Town of St. John, 9-1-1 Emergency System during the course of the year 1995, were of a false, invalid and/or non-emergency nature; and

WHEREAS, such false alarms cause loss in time and manpower to the Town of St. John Police and Fire Departments and put those actually needing emergency services at risk of being deprived of such; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of St. John, upon recommendation of the Town of St. John Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners, deems it advisable and necessary for the best interests of the citizens of the Town of St. John to seek to curtail the loss of manpower caused by the dispatching of emergency services due to invalid, non-emergency calls to the Town of St. John 9-1-1 Emergency System.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED be the Town Council of the Town of St. John, as follows:

SECTION ONE: Infraction. Any person, firm or corporation who places a call to the Town of St. John 9-1-1 Emergency System which is determined by the emergency service provider (i.e. fire department, police department, etc.) or dispatcher to have constituted a request for services of an invalid, non-emergency nature will be deemed to have committed an

infraction. Each infraction will be deemed a separate and severable offense.

SECTION TWO: Penalty. Any person, firm or corporation who commits an infraction under this Ordinance shall be assessed a fine. A schedule of such fines is hereby imposed as follows:

- a. First Offense: Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00)
- b. Second Offense, if within the same calendar month as First Offense: Fifty Dollars (\$50.00)
- c. Third and subsequent offenses, if within the same calendar month as First and Second Offenses: Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00)

Any party violating this Ordinance, in lieu of being charged for said violation in a court of competent jurisdiction, may pay to the Clerk -Treasurer of the Town of St. John, within twenty (20) days after receiving notice of a violation, the appropriate sum. If said amount is not paid within twenty (20) days, said person shall be charged with the violation/infraction in accordance with the law in a court of competent jurisdiction.

SECTION THREE. Effective Date. By passage of this Ordinance, the Town Council declares that an emergency exists and that this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication pursuant to law.

Dated this 30th day of May, 1996.

TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF
ST. JOHN, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA



JOHN TAYLOR, President



FRED KISH

ATTEST:

DOUGLAS PATTERSON



Clerk-Treasurer