

Introduced by: Public Safety and
Transportation Commission
Introduction Date: September 26, 2023
Public Hearing: October 10, 2023
Action: Passed
Vote: 7-0

CITY OF BETHEL, ALASKA

Ordinance #23-17

AN ORDINANCE BY THE BETHEL CITY COUNCIL AMENDING BETHEL MUNICIPAL CODE BY CREATING A NEW SECTION 9.15.010, PROHIBITING ABUSE OF THE 911 SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the 911 telephone system is a critical component in the emergency response system;

WHEREAS, abuses of this system waste 911 dispatchers' valuable time and potentially delay the response of emergency personnel to true emergencies; and

WHEREAS, this past session, the Alaska Legislature enacted SB 38, making interference with emergency communications systems a class B misdemeanor;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED by the City Council of Bethel, Alaska:

Section 1. Classification. This ordinance is permanent in nature and shall become part of the Bethel Municipal Code.

Section 2. Amendment. Bethel Municipal Code Section 9.15.010, is created as follows, new language is underlined and old language is stricken. The subsections within the chapter will be renumbered accordingly following adoption.

9.15.010 Abuse of 911 System.

(A) Any person who, after being warned that their use of the 911 system is improper, uses the 911 telephone system for any reason other than because of an emergency is guilty of an infraction.

(B) For purposes of this section, "emergency" means any condition in which a reasonable person would believe emergency services will result in the saving of a life, a reduction in the destruction of property, quicker apprehension of a criminal, assistance with a potentially life-threatening medical problem, a fire, a need for rescue, an imminent potential crime, or a similar situation in which immediate action is required. "Emergency" also includes calls to 911 the purpose of which is to prevent an emergency response from being initiated when no such response is needed.

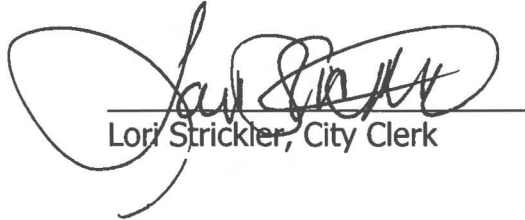
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(C) A person convicted under subsection (A) of this section is subject to a fine of \$250.


SECTION 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption by the Bethel City Council.

ENACTED THIS 10th DAY OF OCTOBER 2023, BY A VOTE OF 7 IN FAVOR AND 0 OPPOSED.

ATTEST:


Lori Strickler, City Clerk


Rose Henderson, Mayor


MAYOR HENDERSON
BETHEL, ALASKA