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**CITY OF SEABROOK
ORDINANCE NO. 2021-16**

REVISING ARSON REWARD

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SEABROOK CHAPTER 34, “FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION”, BY REVISING SECTION 34-1, “ARSON REWARD”; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT OR IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Seabrook is continually reviewing the provisions of the City Code of Ordinances to ensure that it meets the current needs of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City’s Code of Ordinances currently provides for a reward to anyone who secures and furnishes information necessary to and which results in conviction of any person or persons who commit the crime of arson within the corporate limits of Seabrook; and

WHEREAS, Section 34-1 makes reference to a state program that no longer exists, and creates an unnecessary administrative burden by requiring that placards be a nonstandard size (eight inches by twelve inches) and placed in wooden frames under glass inside of at least six public buildings; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Seabrook now wishes to revise the chapter to no longer refer to the discontinued state program and to reduce the unnecessary administrative burden on staff.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEABROOK, STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS OF FACT.

That the facts and matters set forth in the preamble of this Ordinance are hereby found to be true and correct.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT TO THE CODE, CHAPTER 34.

The Seabrook City Code, Chapter 34, “Fire Prevention and Protection” is hereby amended by revising the chapter as follows:

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“[Sec. 34-1. - Arson reward.

- (a) *Established.* The city offers a reward of \$250.00 to anyone who secures and furnishes information necessary to and which results in ~~[arrest and]~~conviction of any person who commits the crime of arson within the corporate limits. This reward is a standing offer and shall be paid out of the general fund of the city.
- (b) *Method of offering reward.* Whenever the Fire Marshal~~[mayor shall be informed that any fire occurrence in the city was of an incendiary origin, he or she shall call for a report on the fire by the city fire official, and if the official]~~ shall report that ~~[such]~~any fire occurrence in the city was caused by the commission of the crime of arson, ~~[it shall become the duty of the mayor to]~~he or she shall offer the reward prescribed in subsection (a) of this section, which reward shall be~~[in the form of a proclamation duly]~~ issued~~[by the mayor]~~ under his or her official signature and attested by the seal of the city and which shall be posted upon conspicuous places, one of which shall be the city hall~~in accordance with the regulations of the state insurance department.~~
- (c) *Notice.* The city secretary is directed to have prepared and posted an arson reward as follows:
- ARSON REWARD
- The City of Seabrook, Texas hereby offers a reward of \$250.00 to anyone who secures and furnishes information necessary to and which results in ~~[arrest and]~~conviction of any person or persons who commit the crime of arson, within the corporate limits of said city. This reward is a standing offer, and shall be paid out of the general fund of the city.
- (d) *Posting of ~~[placards]~~notices.* ~~[Placards]~~A notice of at least eight and one-half (8.5) inches by eleven (11)[12] inches in size showing that the reward is offered must be placed on a public notice board at the city hall~~[in wooden frames under glass, inside of at least six public buildings. A certified copy of the ordinance, one of the placards, and a list of places where the placards have been posted must be furnished to the state board of insurance].~~
- (e) *Method of payment.* Upon information being given by any person causing the ~~[arrest]~~final conviction of any person guilty of the specific crime of arson~~[and upon the final conviction of such person]~~, the person giving such information shall be entitled to receive the reward offered from the city in subsection (a) of this section.”

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