



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: May 3, 2016
Item Number: D-4
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Sandra Spagnoli, Chief of Police
Subject: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING ALARM SYSTEMS

Attachments: 1. Ordinance

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council move to waive the full reading of the ordinance and the ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING ALARM SYSTEMS" be introduced and read by title only.

INTRODUCTION

The City Council adopted a False Security Alarm Reduction program in April of 2009 and amended the fees for the program on October 5, 2010. The goal of the program was to modify security alarm user behavior and divert public safety resources to legitimate activities, which helps maintain BHPD response times. Additionally, false alarm fees collected help offset the costs associated with responding to false alarms. Since the program's inception, false security alarms have been reduced significantly.

DISCUSSION

In late 2015, the entire west-side region (West Los Angeles, Culver City, Santa Monica and West Hollywood) has experienced an increase in residential and commercial burglaries. The existing Ordinance that addresses false alarms states that an alarm company is required to make two (2) attempts to contact the alarm subscriber by telephone to verify the legitimacy of the alarm. The proposed amendment to the Ordinance removes that requirement and places the responsibility of determining alarm verification with the alarm company and the property owner. Although the two call verification attempt is industry standard with the change the mandatory provision in the ordinance creates a disincentive for the property owners to regularly turn on their alarm and could inhibit prompt response by our Police Department. The alarm company may call the police without delay and thus reduce total response time to alarm activation.

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FISCAL IMPACT

There is no direct fiscal impact of removing the two (2) call alarm verification requirement; however, a related consequence may be an increase in the number of false alarms calls. Please note that the Police Department will be recommending the modification of the false alarm fee structure given increase in burglaries. This will be addressed in a separate agenda report.



SANDRA SPAGNOLI
Chief of Police

Attachment 1

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
AMENDING THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL
CODE REGARDING ALARM SYSTEMS**

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS DOES HEREBY
ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The city council hereby amends and restates Sections 4-4-105 (“CALL VERIFICATION RESPONSE FOR SERVICE”) of Article 1 (“Alarm Systems And False Alarms”) of Chapter 4 (“OTHER REGULATIONS FOR SPECIFIC TYPES OF BUSINESSES AND ACTIVITIES”) of Title 4 (“REGULATION OF CERTAIN TYPES OF BUSINESSES AND ACTIVITIES”) of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code to read as follows:

4-4-105: REQUEST FOR RESPONSE AT ALARM SITE:

At the time a request for police or fire response to an alarm site is made, the alarm business, central station or other answering service shall provide all information required by the police or fire department dispatcher including, but not limited to, the time, date and location of the alarm; the name, address and telephone number of the alarm subscriber or his or her designee; and the cause of the alarm.

Section 2. Severability. If any section, subsection, subdivision, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or place, is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by the final decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 3. Publication. The City Clerk shall cause this Ordinance to be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation published and circulated in the city within fifteen (15) days after its passage in accordance with Section 36933 of the Government Code, shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance and shall cause this Ordinance and the city Clerk’s certification, together with proof of publication, to be entered in the Book of Ordinances of the Council of this city.

Section 4. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall go into effect and be in full force and effect at 12:01 a.m. on the thirty-first (31st) day after its passage.

Adopted:
Effective:

JOHN A. MIRISCH
Mayor of the City of Beverly Hills

ATTEST:

(SEAL)
BYRON POPE
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



LAURENCE S. WIENER
City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

MAHDI ALUZRI
City Manager