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Arrival CF 07-3262

PUBLIC SAFETY

JAN 25 2012

MOTION

As the City continues to cope with severe budget constraints, it has become imperative to make the best use of all available resources. To that end, City departments have been directed to prioritize core services and seek cost recovery for others.

The Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) responds to hundreds of thousands of calls each year but occasionally there are calls triggered by a false alarm. The LAFD's call records indicate that many locations have had three or more false alarms during the same calendar year. Responding to false alarms, especially at recurring locations, ultimately reduces the availability of resources to respond to real emergencies.

A proposal to assess a false alarm fee is currently under consideration by the LAFD, but this is not a new concept for the City. The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) assesses a fee for false alarms which result in LAPD officers being dispatched to the location. Administration of the fee involves an alarm permitting process in partnership with the Police Commission and Office of Finance. The implementation of an LAFD false alarm fee should use a similar process.

Charging a fee for recurring false fire alarms will serve as a deterrent for continued use of improper alarms and as a mechanism to recover the costs associated with deploying fire resources unnecessarily. The proposal merits further consideration by the City Council.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Fire Department, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst, be instructed to report with recommendations for implementing a false alarm fee that would provide for cost recovery of the resources associated with responding to recurring false alarms.

PRESENTED BY


MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY



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ORIGINAL

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