

AUG 07 2012

12-1217

PUBLIC SAFETY

Prior CF 07-3262

MOTION

Because data provided by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) showed that a significantly high percentage of resources dispatched to alarm calls were false alarms, Council adopted an ordinance in 2004 that imposed a false alarm fee and penalty assessments for multiple false alarms. The fees were established to recover the cost of valuable and scarce police resources that would otherwise have been available to respond to true emergencies, and to encourage residents and business owners to take appropriate measures to reduce false alarms.

With implementation of the ordinance, the LAPD Alarm Unit established its Alarm School program to reduce the number of false alarms through alarm operator education and awareness. By participating in the training, one false alarm activation fee is waived per 365 days. The program is now offered as a mail-in home study version and an online version. It has been recently reported in the media, however, that residents and businesses receiving false alarm notices are not informed of the opportunity to attend Alarm School. If the program successfully educates the public on how to operate an alarm system without false alarm activations, thereby preserving public safety resources, the City must ensure the LAPD is properly informing false alarm bill recipients of the availability of Alarm School.

Further, in addition to attending Alarm School, the LAPD should develop criteria for other circumstances that would warrant consideration of a waiver.

Given that a recent update of the false alarm program has not been provided to Public Safety Committee, such a report should be requested to include discussion of the fee waiver issue.

I THEREFORE MOVE that City Council instruct the Los Angeles Police Department report to Public Safety Committee with an update on the false alarm program, including but not limited to: number of alarm dispatches; number/percentage of false alarms; number of addresses with multiple false alarms; mechanism for informing false alarm bill recipients of availability of Alarm School; opportunity to appeal a false alarm fee and criteria for granting an appeal.

PRESENTED BY: Mitchell Y ENGLANDER
MITCHELL ENGLANDER
Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY: [Signature]

ORIGINAL

jwg

[Signature]
AUG 7 2012