



Department Source: Police

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: October 16, 2017

Re: Modifications to Chapter 13, Article IX, Division 2 – Alarm Systems

Executive Summary

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish a civil penalty system for burglar alarm system operators and owners within the City, who have repeated false alarm violations. The ordinance is expected to reduce excessive false burglar alarms that require a response by the Columbia Police Department, and enhance citizen safety.

Discussion

The Columbia Police Department responded to approximately 29,000 alarm calls between January 2011 and June of 2017. Of these 29,000 alarm calls, 28,420 of them, or roughly 98% were determined to be false. Each alarm responded to by police officers requires a minimum of 2 officers, and an average of 30 minutes per incident.

In an effort to reduce the number of false alarms, the Columbia Police Department is proposing an updated city ordinance based on national standards and best practices. This ordinance will establish reasonable expectations of alarm owners and users within the City, and require them to properly maintain their system, thereby reducing the number of false alarms related to system failure.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: No fiscal impact anticipated.

Long-Term Impact: Increased efficiency and effectiveness will ultimately reduce cost of police services used to respond to false alarms.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impacts

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Public Safety, Secondary Impact: Operational Excellence, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	N/A

Suggested Council Action

Should Council agree, staff recommends passage of ordinance to modify Chapter 13, Article IX, Division 2 – Alarm Systems to allow a civil penalty system for repeat false alarms.