



REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Grant Yates, City Manager

Prepared by: Nicole Dailey, Senior Management Analyst

Date: July 10, 2018

Subject: Security Alarm Systems Municipal Code & False Alarm Enforcement

Recommendation

Review and discuss the active enforcement of existing Lake Elsinore Municipal Code Chapter 9.30 regarding Security Alarm Systems.

Refer Lake Elsinore Municipal Code Chapter 9.30 regarding Security Alarm Systems to the Public Safety Advisory Commission and City Attorney for review and proposed amendments for future consideration by the City Council.

Background

On August 14, 1984, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 715 adding Chapter 9.30 to the Lake Elsinore Municipal Code regulating Security Alarm Systems. The municipal code remains in affect today. However, due to former concerns from the community, for several years the municipal code has not been proactively enforced.

Discussion

Each year, public safety costs for the City have risen substantially. Therefore, the City must find ways to reduce and/or recover costs associated with public safety.

City's law enforcement and fire personnel regularly respond to false security alarm calls within our community. As a result, law enforcement is forced to direct limited resources to these false alarm calls rather than other priority public safety calls.

At the direction of the City Council, staff is prepared to begin actively enforcing Chapter 9.30 regarding Security Alarm Systems to encourage our community to take steps to prevent these nuisance false alarm calls.

Currently, the existing municipal code provides provisions and penalties associated with excessive false alarm calls related to commercial businesses. However, they were established more than 30 years ago.

Security Alarm Systems & False Alarms

Therefore, staff also recommends Chapter 9.30 of the Lake Elsinore Municipal Code is thoroughly reviewed by the Public Safety Advisory Commission and City Attorney to ensure it remains in compliance with existing penal codes and is comparable to the provisions of other cities in Riverside County. Key considerations for future amendments include the proposed permitting process for those with an alarm, fine/penalty amounts, and provisions for residential versus commercial false alarms.

Fiscal Impact

The City would expect a neutral fiscal impact due to cost recovery associated with false alarm calls. Cost recovery would vary on a case by case basis.

Exhibits

A – Chapter 9.30 of the Lake Elsinore Municipal Code regarding Security Alarm Systems