



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Riverside security alarm rules, fees change July 1

Riverside, CA -- The City of Riverside Security Alarm Ordinance changes approved by City Council, increasing penalties for false alarms, go into effect July 1, 2008.

Ordinance changes provides the Riverside Police Department with more effective alarm management requiring greater alarm user and industry accountability.

Nearly 98 percent of all alarm dispatches, in Riverside and nationwide, turn out to be false alarms. Permitted alarm users are allowed two false alarm calls per calendar year before incurring penalties. Customers without permits receive one warning, then face higher penalties for repeat false alarm calls.

The City of Riverside alarm user's permit fee increases from \$30 to \$50.

There are approximately 18,750 known residential and commercial alarm systems in Riverside. In a sample one-year period, Riverside Police responded to 10,857 alarm dispatches, of which only 219 resulted in an actual crime report. Fees and penalties were approved as a partial cost recovery measure for staff costs of responding to alarms, estimated at nearly \$1 million a year.

Ordinance changes require alarm monitoring companies to register, to make a second call to an alternate number prior to requesting a police dispatch, to train their clients on alarm ordinance requirements, to pay for employees accidentally triggering alarms while servicing systems, and it gives the City the ability to charge alarm businesses for non-compliance. (see attached for complete details)

Find more information, including permit forms and complete text of the ordinance, at: <http://www.rpdonline.org/alarms>

For further information contact the Riverside Police Department Alarm Enforcement Unit at (951) 826-5600.

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