

Office of the City Manager

City of Richland Hills, Texas

Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor Bill Agan and members of the Richland Hills City Council
From: Barbara Childress, Chief of Police
Date: November 5, 2013
Subject: Alarm Ordinance

Council Action Requested:

Discussion regarding proposed Alarm Ordinance

Background Information:

The Richland Hills Police Department spends considerable amounts of time responding to false alarms from residential and commercial alarm systems. Approximately 95% of all alarms in Richland Hills are false. Responding to these false alarms becomes a time drain on personnel in which they could be more effectively serving the community. One of the ways many cities in the area have reduced the number of false alarms is through the adoption and enforcement of an Alarm Ordinance.

The purpose of an Alarm Ordinance is to provide standards and regulations which encourage the proper operation of alarm systems. Alarm ordinances significantly reduce false alarm responses, save tax dollars, enhance alarm system operation and enhance officer safety.

The alarm program would be managed by PMAM, a private alarm management company in Irving, relieving staff from this onerous task. I would like to go over some of the details of what would be included in an Alarm Ordinance and the potential benefits to the department and the City.

Board/Citizen Input: N/A

Financial Impact: N/A

Staff Contacts:

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Chief of Police

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Attachments: N/A