



**City of Rochester Hills
AGENDA SUMMARY
NON-FINANCIAL ITEMS**

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Legislative File No: 2004-0032

TO: Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Susan Galeczka, Deputy Clerk
DATE: July 7, 2006
SUBJECT: False Alarm Ordinance

At the March 31, 2004 Work Session, City Council, at the recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, heard a presentation from Mr. Dan Clark, former False Alarm Officer for the City of Troy Police Department, on the False Alarm Program he implemented for the City of Troy to contend with excessive false alarms. He noted that these false alarms result in a waste of public safety officers' time and resources. At the conclusion of the meeting Council returned this issue to the Public Safety Committee for further examination and to consider issues to customize such a program to Rochester Hills.

The Public Safety Committee discussed this issue at the following Public Safety Committee Meetings:

- April 12, 2004
- February 7, 2005
- April 4, 2005
- June 6, 2005
- July 11, 2005
- April 3, 2006

Minutes are included in the packet for your reference.

At the July 11, 2005 Public Safety Committee Meeting the Committed adopted the following resolution

A motion was made by Robbins, seconded by Barnett, that this matter be Recommended for Approval to the City Council Regular Meeting.

Whereas, significant problems are caused in Rochester Hills by a large number of Police responses to false alarm systems. These false alarms cause man power problems, costs, liability issues and greater harm by reducing the credibility of all alarms and,

Whereas, other communities, which now include Sterling Heights, have instituted programs involving alarm registration and a scale of fines for repeat false alarms and

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Rochester Hills City Council Public Safety Committee recommends that City Council move forward with adopting a False Alarm Ordinance based on Sterling Heights False Alarm Ordinance and that the Council President schedule it for an upcoming Council meeting.

Subsequently, at the October 5, 2005 Regular Council meeting Council Member discussed the matter of excessive false alarms in the City and determined a review of the current False Alarm Ordinance was necessary. Council unanimously adopted the following resolution:

A motion was made by Robbins, seconded by Barnett, that this matter be Recommended for Approval to the City Council Regular Meeting

Resolved that the Rochester Hills City Council directs the City Attorney to work with Administrative Staff to review the current False Alarm Ordinance and provide a revised ordinance taking into consideration the National Model and ordinances from other communities as they apply to the City of Rochester Hills; and

Be It Further Resoled that the City Attorney is requested to provide a report at a future City Council meeting.

Pursuant to Council's request, City Attorney John Staran, working with Capt Robert Smith, OCSD and Fire Chief Ron Crowell, has reviewed the False Alarm Ordinance and has provided a revised Ordinance for Council's review. It was requested at the October 5, 2005 Council meeting, that the Ordinance is be brought back for an informal review prior to Council taking action. Once Council has an opportunity to review the ordinance and recommend any additional revisions, the Ordinance will be brought forward for First Reading at a future Council meeting.

A copy of the following has been included in the packet:

- Proposed False Alarm Ordinance
- Minutes from Public Safety Committee Meetings and City Council Meetings leading up to requesting Attorney to prepare a revised Ordinance
- False Alarm Ordinance as Codified in 1998
- Amended False Alarm Ordinance adopted June 19, 1996 w/minutes from First Reading and Second Reading
- False Alarm Ordinance adopted January 13, 1988 w/minutes from First Reading and Second Reading

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

NEXT AGENDA ITEM

RETURN TO AGENDA
