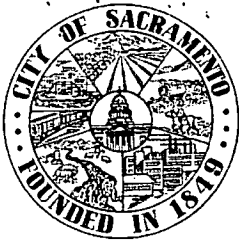


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CITY OF SACRAMENTO

APPROVED
BY THE CITY COUNCIL

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JAN 8 1980

OFFICE OF THE
CITY CLERK

APPROVED
BY THE CITY COUNCIL

JOHN P. KEARNS
CHIEF OF POLICE

JAN 15 1980
OFFICE OF THE
CITY CLERK

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

HALL OF JUSTICE
813 - 6TH STREET

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
TELEPHONE (916) 449-5121

December 6, 1979
REF: 12-10

City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: Proposed City Ordinance Regulating False Burglary and Robbery Alarms

SUMMARY

This proposal has been amended from its original form as presented to the Budget and Finance Committee on September 17, 1979. In the original letter, indirect costs and salary increases were omitted. Additionally, start-up costs and complete first-year financing were requested. The present letter cites new cost analysis figures. The amended proposal requests start-up costs plus operating costs for only the last two months of Fiscal Year 1979-80.

The proposed ordinance is self-supporting through the use of fees collected for licensing. The proposed Alarm Ordinance will regulate owners and users of burglary and robbery alarms, both commercial and residential, through a licensing process. A fee of \$25 would be charged for a three-year period and would require renewal every three years. The license can be revoked or suspended if the owner or user fails to correct chronic false alarm problems.

In 1978, the Police Department answered 11,200 alarm calls of which 10,639 were false, or when expressed in percentage, 95% of all alarm calls to which a unit responded were false. These false alarms consumed 3,821 patrol unit hours which represents a cost of about \$250,000 for the year responding to false alarms.

We anticipate that this ordinance will place the responsibility of proper installation, maintenance, and operation of the alarm on the individual owner or contracted alarm company. Any identified excessive false alarm problem will result in a temporary suspension or revocation of the permit until the problem is corrected. These proposed punitive actions for a violation will have the effect of reducing the number of false alarms. We base this statement on the experience of other municipalities who have enacted a similar mandatory alarm ordinance. We expect that this ordinance will allow us to redirect patrol units which are currently answering false alarms to other police activities.

There is a possibility that there will be some small resistance from some alarm users, but not of major proportions. However, there should be little, if any resistance, from the alarm industry as they have had input into the formation of this ordinance. It is recommended that the Council adopt this ordinance to enable us to provide better service to the entire community.

A resolution is requested to appropriate \$47,830 to increase the Fiscal Year 1979-80 budget to fund first-year expenses for administering and enforcing the new Alarm Ordinance. Alarm license fees will generate off-setting revenues to cover expenses.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Throughout the years, the City of Sacramento, as well as most other cities in the United States, has been plagued by the large number of false or faulty burglary and robbery alarms. The number of alarms have grown and the time spent by the police in answering these alarms has become a financial burden. Because of this, several cities made attempts to regulate false alarms, each time running into constitutional problems. Finally, in 1973, the City of Pasadena was successful in passing an ordinance that has withstood the test of the Courts. This ordinance resulted in a 63% reduction in the number of false alarms received in Pasadena, with a resultant savings of money and manhours. Since that time, numerous other cities nationwide have adopted ordinances based on Pasadena's and have also experienced reductions in false alarms and savings of money and manhours. If the number of false alarms could be cut by only one-third, the savings would be close to \$85,000 a year, allowing for the redirection of the savings to other areas of patrol.

The proposed Sacramento ordinance is based on the Pasadena concept. The Police Department has spent several years drafting different types of ordinances regarding alarms. This proposed ordinance has passed all internal testing including the City Attorney's Office. The District Attorney's Office has promised cooperation in the prosecution of violators.

Several meetings have been held with a representative group from the alarm industry. The proposed ordinance was presented at those meetings and has the approval of the alarm industry.

FINANCIAL DATA

The proposed alarm ordinance is designed to be self-sustaining in that a small fee of \$25 for three years is charged to each alarm user. The estimated revenue for licensing is \$85,000 a year, which should offset the cost of implementing and enforcing the ordinance. The costs of implementing and operating an alarm ordinance have been divided into start-up costs and on-going costs. Start-up costs are one-time expenses incurred in establishing a system for administering the ordinance. The start-up expenses will occur before a single permit can be issued. The on-going costs are those expenses incurred in day-to-day operations involving the actual issue and reissue of alarm permits.

As the proposed ordinance is constantly being updated, the cost figures have been somewhat revised from the original proposal. The following are the latest cost estimates which include current salary levels (including benefits) and administrative expenses. The on-going costs are estimated expenses at current rates. Future salary raises and inflationary increases have not been considered in the estimate.

FALSE ALARM ORDINANCE
COST ESTIMATE

<u>START-UP COST</u>	<u>POLICE</u>	<u>REVENUES & COLLECTIONS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
EMPLOYEE SERVICES			
Sr. Account Clerk (400 hrs.)		\$3,510	\$ 3,510
Intermediate Clerk (66 hrs.)		490	490
Cashier (12 hrs.)		90	90
Sub-Total		\$4,090	\$ 4,090
INDIRECT COST (ADMINISTRATIVE)		\$ 910	\$ 910

START-UP COST (cont.)

	<u>POLICE</u>	<u>REVENUES & COLLECTIONS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
SERVICES AND SUPPLIES			
Telephone		\$ 50	\$ 50
Mail		2,000	2,000
Printing	\$ 4,140		4,140
Computer Programmer	9,000		9,000
Computer Time	1,000		1,000
Office Supplies	100	500	600
Small Equipment	<u>50</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>250</u>
Sub-Total	\$14,290	\$2,750	\$17,040
EQUIPMENT			
Desk, Typewriter	\$ 1,250	\$1,250	\$ 2,500
Vehicle	<u>10,300</u>		<u>10,300</u>
Sub-Total	\$11,550	\$1,250	\$12,800
TOTAL START-UP COST	<u>\$25,840</u>	<u>\$9,000</u>	<u>\$34,840</u>

ON-GOING COSTS

EMPLOYEE SERVICES			
Alarm Technician (full time)	\$22,800		\$22,800
Sr. Account Clerk (full time)		\$18,300	18,300
Jr. Typist Clerk (full time)	12,800		12,800
Cashier (12 hours-)		<u>90</u>	<u>90</u>
Sub-Total	\$35,600	\$18,390	\$53,990
INDIRECT COST (ADMINISTRATIVE)	\$ 8,000	\$ 4,100	\$12,100
SERVICES AND SUPPLIES			
Telephone		\$ 50	\$ 50
Mail		2,000	2,000
Printing	\$ 500		500
Vehicle Maintenance	1,200		1,200
Computer Time	3,000		3,000
Keypunching	2,000		2,000
Office Supplies	<u>2,500</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>3,100</u>
Sub-Total	\$ 9,200	\$ 2,650	\$11,850
TOTAL ON-GOING COST	<u>\$52,800</u>	<u>\$25,140</u>	<u>\$77,940</u>

It is estimated that collection of fees during the first year should generate revenues of \$250,000 to \$300,000. The reason for the variation in revenue figures is because we have no way of knowing exactly how many alarms are in use within the city limits, and the alarm companies do not keep breakdown figures between city and county. However, an alarm industry survey indicates there are approximately 10,000 alarms within the city limits. Furthermore, the alarm industry estimates that 25% of the alarms are responsible for the majority of the problems. In addition, new alarm systems are being added daily, which should produce an additional income of \$5,000 to \$10,000 a year or more. As expenditures are estimated at \$268,660 for the first three years, this may leave us a small cushion to cover unexpected costs and can be used to expand the program in the future if the need arises.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

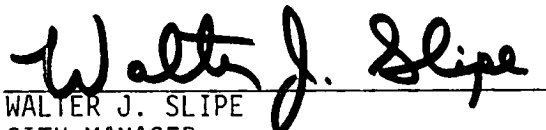
1. The City Council adopt this ordinance, to take effect May 1, 1980. This will give City Personnel sufficient time to do a complete job classification study and test for the new positions required.
2. The City Council approve the resolution for first-year financing. This would cost \$47,830 which includes start-up costs and two months of operation.

Respectfully submitted,



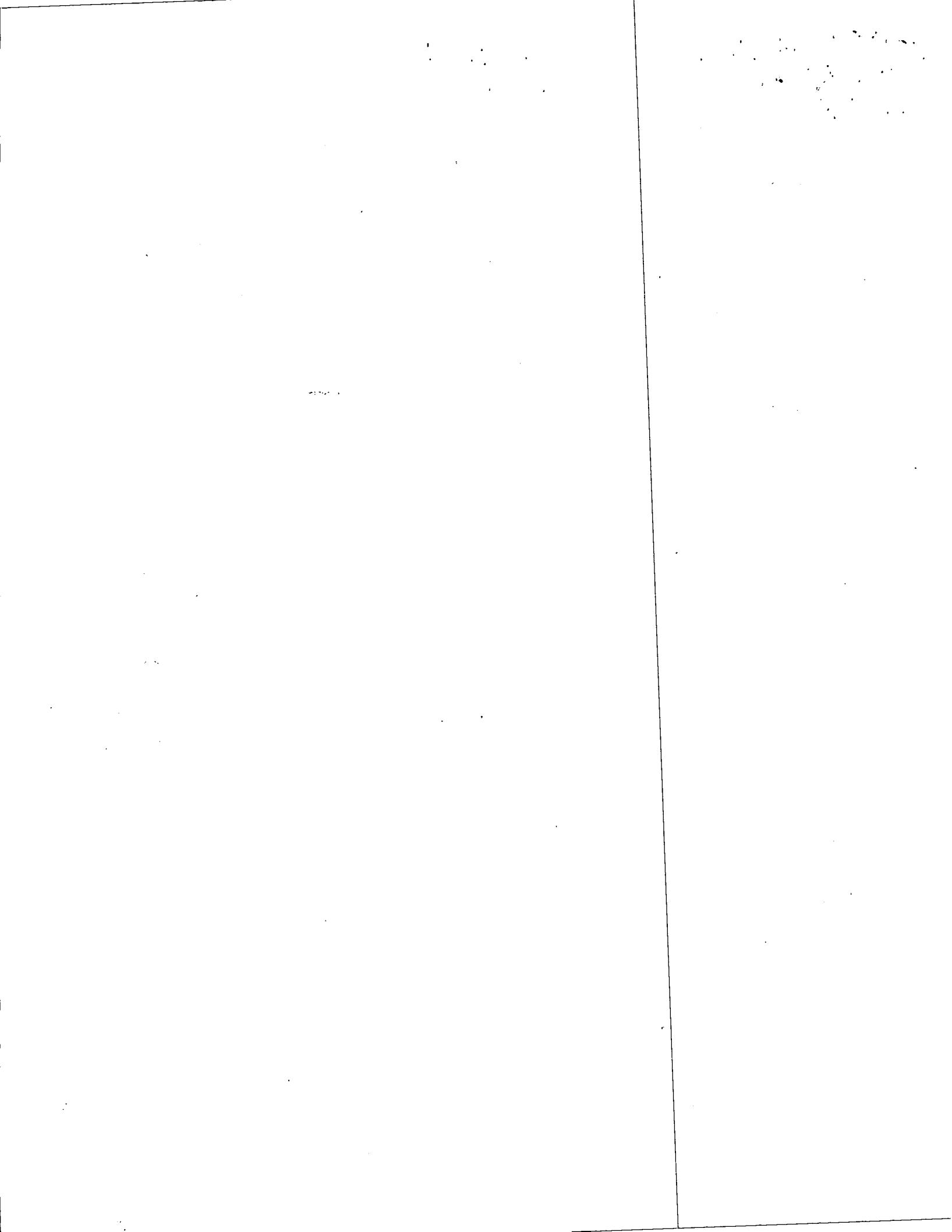
JOHN P. KEARNS
CHIEF OF POLICE

Recommendation Approved:



WALTER J. SLIPE
CITY MANAGER

JPK:AS:RHS:jt





CITY OF SACRAMENTO

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

915 I STREET

CITY HALL ROOM 203

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

TELEPHONE (916) 449-5426

LORRAINE MAGANA
CITY CLERK

January 16, 1980

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

At the regular meeting of January 15, 1980, the City Council adopted an ordinance adding Chapter 69 to the Sacramento City Code relating to and regulating the use of burglary and robbery alarm systems and requiring permits therefor, declaring same to be an emergency measure to take effect May 1, 1980.

Sincerely,


Lorraine Magana
City Clerk

LM:HO'

cc: Mr./Mrs. E. Foulke
Jeff Schneider
Police Dept. (Lee Dohm)

" " **LT. BENTON**

Item No. 30

