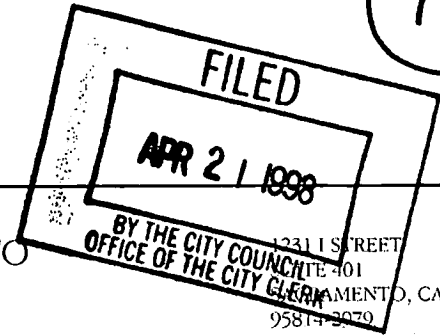




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DEPARTMENT OF
FIRE

GARY COSTAMAGNA
FIRE CHIEF

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

April 13, 1998

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City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: REPORT BACK REGARDING FIRE DEPARTMENT AND POLICE DEPARTMENT RESIDENTIAL AND GATED COMMUNITY ACCESS ISSUES

LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT: Citywide - All Districts

RECOMMENDATION:

This is a report back at the request of City Council and provides information regarding residential and gated community access issues.

CONTACT PERSONS: Matt Powers, Deputy Chief, Police Department 264-5259
Dennis Smith, Deputy Chief, Fire Department 264-5190

FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF: April 21, 1998

SUMMARY:

The Police and Fire Departments are working together to increase public safety access abilities to gated and residential communities in emergency situations. The Fire Department has afforded access to "Knox Boxes". The Police Department is now equipped with the necessary keys to allow access to these communities.

Both departments are working together to identify Knox devices which must be retrofitted or added to accept the Police Department's keys. Minor problems have and will be experienced by field officers as the Police Department issued keys prior to the completion of the retro-fit program.

The Fire Department projects that an inventory of the downtown area will be completed by April 17, 1998, and the project completed within 60 days from receipt of additional Knox devices.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A "Knox" device (switch or box) is a means of allowing emergency access to a facility, either residential or commercial. A Knox switch is an electrical switch operated by a key lock to open or close a gate. A Knox Box is a container, within which a key to a gate or facility can be maintained.

When the Sacramento Police Department began seeking access to properties with Knox Devices, concerns were raised regarding security and access issues. The Fire Department operates with a few dozen keys, while the Police Department requires hundreds in order to equip each officer.

An agreement was reached whereupon the Police Department would be supplied with Knox keys. The Police Department obtained 650 keys at a cost of \$1,659. As part of this agreement, the Police Department will receive the same level of access to residential type complexes, including gated communities, as the Fire Department currently has.

To accommodate the Police Department, all residential Knox devices needed to be retro-fitted. This required the purchase of approximately \$20,000 worth of Knox devices. The Fire Department will continue to have uninterrupted access to residential, gated and commercial properties.

The Fire Department has reassigned personnel to retro-fit and re-key Knox devices, resulting in an investment of approximately 640 staff hours to date. This total includes locating, administering and installing the device. Approximately 500 devices have thus far been installed with an additional 200 to be completed. In addition, 70 new installations have occurred as the result of requests from property owners. Staff hours will continue to be incurred through completion of the program. The Police Department has, at the request of the Fire Department, established a mechanism to identify locations which still require attention. Representatives from both departments communicate and pass on this information on a daily basis.

The Fire Department's list of residential properties that have, or require a Knox device is incomplete as no City department has a comprehensive list of gated residential complexes. The Police Department's ability to discover locations which require attention is aiding the progress of this program, and speeding the process which identifies problems.

The Fire Department projects that an inventory of the downtown area will be completed by April 17, 1998, and the project completed within 60 days from receipt of additional Knox devices. This will be an ongoing process and new sites will be continually identified.

Concerns exist that the Police Department does not yet have access to every residential complex. Should an emergency occur at a location which has not yet been retro-fitted, the Police Department must gain access via the operational procedures in place prior to the retro-fit program.

The Sacramento County Sheriff's Department maintains a Knox box program separate from other County Fire agencies. The Knox key that the Police Department has been issued is the same key that the Sheriff's Department uses. This will allow both the Police and Sheriff's Departments to assist each other in the City or County.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Funding of \$20,000 was previously approved for this program.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

This report does not involve an activity which would be covered by CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act).

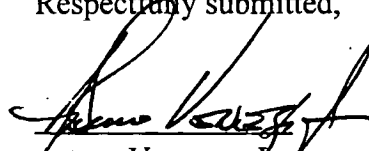
POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

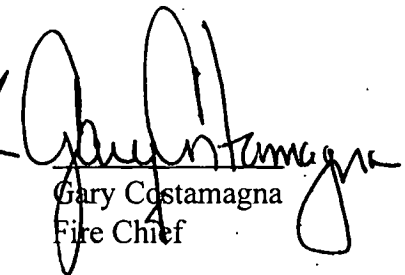
This program is an example of operating partnerships within public safety.

MBE/WBE EFFORTS:

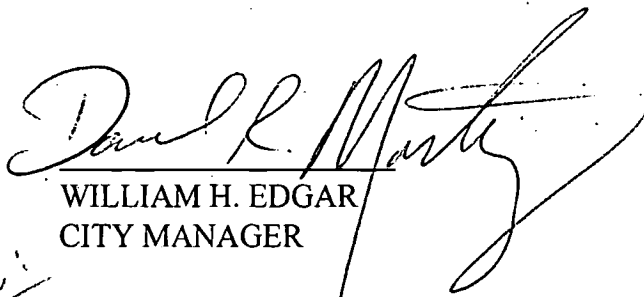
The purchase of the Knox devices are only available through the Knox Company. The Knox Company is not a certified minority-owned or women-owned business enterprise.

Respectfully submitted,


Arturo Venegas, Jr.
Chief of Police


Gary Costamagna
Fire Chief

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:


WILLIAM H. EDGAR
CITY MANAGER

er: