



City Council Agenda Item Report

Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020

Agenda Item No. 2020-405- #1.5

Contact: Bo Kidd

Subject: Deliberation and possible action to consider an Ordinance of the City of Buda, Texas, adding Article 6.04 to the Buda Code of Ordinances; providing rules and regulations related to alarm use in the city; providing for severability; providing for repeal; providing penalty; and providing for an effective date (Police Chief Bo Kidd) [PUBLIC TESTIMONY]

1. Executive Summary

The purpose of this ordinance is to encourage alarm users and alarm companies to properly use and maintain alarm systems in order to improve the reliability of alarm systems and to reduce or eliminate false alarms. This ordinance governs alarm systems intended to summon law enforcement response and requires permitting, establishes fees, provides penalties for violations, establishes a system of administration, and sets conditions for the suspension of police response or revocation of permits.

2. Background/History

In 2019, the Buda Police Department responded to 815 business alarms and 265 residential alarms of which the vast majority were false alarms. For the first six months of 2020, the Buda Police Department has responded to 410 business alarms and 99 residential alarms of which the vast majority were also false alarms.

3. Staff's review and analysis

False alarms have directed a significant amount of time of law enforcement attention and resources needlessly. This ordinance provides a mechanism to ensure that these issues get resolved without further impact to our police presence and response to other services required.

4. Financial Impact

None

5. Summary/Conclusion

Most cities (i.e. Kyle & San Marcos) have alarm ordinances for the purposes of ensuring that alarms

are maintained and operating in a manner that will minimize false alarms. Penalties will ensure due regard in maintenance of alarms within the City of Buda.

6. Pros and Cons

With an alarm ordinance we have some control and regulation of services. Registered residents and businesses will provide subscriber / contact information which will also help in resolving alarm calls. Nuisance alarms can be resolved by penalties.

Without an alarm ordinance we would have little control in regulating.

7. Alternatives

N/A

8. Recommendation

Approve or provide further direction.