

## MOTION

## PUBLIC SAFETY

FEB 29 2008

Based on the most recent fiscal information released in the Mid-Year Financial Status Report, it is incumbent on the City's leadership to decrease spending and maximize revenue. The City must also work to maintain public safety and other essential services under these financial constraints.


Over the past five years, the Fire Department has observed an upward trend of false alarms calls. Not only do these calls expend Fire Department resources, they impact the availability of those resources to respond to legitimate emergencies. Once dispatched, Fire Department resources are required to investigate whether a life-threatening emergency exists. However, with increasing frequency, automatic alarm dispatches that result in false alarms are due mainly to alarm system malfunctions, unintentional alarm transmissions, and even burglar alarm transmissions.

Under the City's current false alarm ordinance, the alarm-user is fined for a false alarm when the Police Department is called, but the ordinance does not apply to the Fire Department. The City's false alarm billings totaled over \$26.8 million from 2004-2006, and the Fire Department should be included in the ordinance to recover its costs as well.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request that within 30 days, the City Attorney, Fire Department, Police Department and Office of Finance determine if the Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 103.206 can be amended to include the Fire Department response for false alarm billings and, if so, prepare and present an updated ordinance; or, if the participating departments can change the billing and false alarm policies and procedures under the current ordinance, to include the Fire Department as well.

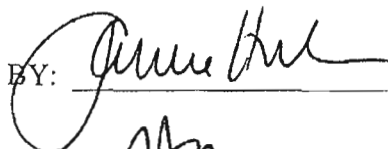
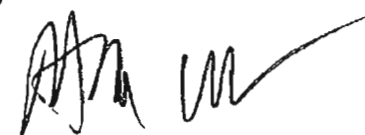
I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council request that within 30 days, the Fire Department report back on actions that the Department will take to ensure that by decreasing false alarm calls, the City does not discourage use of fire alarms or reports of legitimate life-threatening emergencies or fires as a result.

PRESENTED BY:

  
WENDY GREUEL  
Councilmember, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

FEB 29 2008

SECONDED BY:

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