

JAMES G. FEATHERSTONE INTERIM FIRE CHIEF

May 14, 2014

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

FILE NO. 14-045

TO:

Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM:

James G. Featherstone, Interim Fire Chief

SUBJECT: FALSE FIRE ALARM PROGRAM UPDATE

	FINAL ACTION: Approved Denied	Approved w/Corrections	Withdrawn
ı	Deffied	Received & Filed	Other

SUMMARY

On May 1, 2014, during its consideration of the Fire Department's 2014-15 proposed budget, the Budget and Finance Committee requested the Department to report back on what funding is necessary to develop the automated false alarm program tracking and billing system.

The Bureau of Fire Prevention and Public Safety has been actively involved working with Metro Fire Communications to capture the total number of false alarms field resources respond to on a yearly average. Based on information extracted from the computer automated dispatch, Fire Department resources responded to approximately 24,000 automatic alarms from April 2013 to April 2014.

The Fire Department's goal is to determine the cause of unwanted fire alarms and to find solutions to reduce responses to facilities where no Fire Department response was required.

The goal in reducing unwanted alarms is to correct issues that cause them. There are many means of accomplishing this goal. Voluntary correction of the unwanted fire alarms is the first step, followed by abatement/legal corrective action.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board: Receive and file.

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FISCAL IMPACT

The General Fund impact of the Fire Department's request for a False Alarm Tracking and Billing system would be \$1,034,000, which includes:

- \$500,000 for system development
- \$400,000 for ITA system customization
- \$134,000 for (1) Captain II to administer the program

Estimated revenues for this program would not be recognized until Fiscal Year 2015-16, when the system is anticipated to be fully operational. Should an appropriation be made for this purpose, additional general fund revenue or offsetting appropriations will need to be identified.

Board report prepared by Mark Stormes, Deputy Chief, Bureau of Fire Prevention & Public Safety.