

**COUNCIL ACTION  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

DATE: 06/01/2011

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Fire-Rescue Department

SUBJECT: Fire-Rescue Related False Alarms

COUNCIL DISTRICT(S): ALL

CONTACT/PHONE NUMBER: Brian Fennessy/(619) 533-4302/MS 604

**DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY OF ITEM:**

1) Approve an ordinance to amend Chapter 55 Article 5 Division 51 of the San Diego Municipal Code to include False Fire Alarms.

2) Authorize the City through its City Treasurer, or other City-designated department(s), to issue permits and assess permits and penalties effective November 1, 2011 in accordance with San Diego Municipal Code Chapter 55 Article 5 Division 51.

3) Authorize the Mayor or his designee to establish fees for permit and penalties related to fire-rescue false alarms as reflected in the summary of this Report and in the Attachment A provided.

4) Authorize the City Clerk to amend the City Ratebook to reflect the new permit and penalty rates.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve Requested Actions

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

False alarms consume limited emergency resources. Over the past three years, San Diego Fire-Rescue (SDFD) averaged 6,281 false alarms per year, resulting in 1,977 hours of effort at a cost of \$541,679 to the City (calendar years 2008, 2009, 2010 combined average statistics). The most prominent causes for false fire alarm responses are ringing alarms, including high-rise buildings. Ringing alarms represent 93% of the false alarm incidents and 1,690 hours annually. When SDFD's resources are committed to a false alarm response, they are unable to respond to other calls for service.

Beyond the obvious fiscal impact, false alarms have a functional impact to SDFD field operations and the citizens of San Diego. Although fire fighters have no real way of knowing which alarms are false during a response, repeated trips to the same addresses reduces a fire company's availability to respond to actual emergencies. In a City with scarce resources, the impact is even greater. Whether the cause is a lack of maintenance on a commercial system, or the inability to distinguish between a residential burglar alarm and fire alarm, the City of San Diego is adversely impacted by these incidents.

The intention of this proposal is to motivate owners of malfunctioning fire alarm systems to take corrective actions to ensure SDFD resources are available for genuine emergencies. The time spent responding to and investigating these incidents is a drain on an already busy system.

Reducing the number of false fire alarms through an effort to incentivize maintenance and properly operate systems is long overdue.

SDFD plans to partner with San Diego Police Department (SDPD) to incorporate fire alarm responses into the existing Burglar, Robbery and Emergency Alarm System beginning November 1, 2011. Permits will be issued for combination security/fire alarms as well as fire only alarm systems. If a permitted system causes enough false alarms to be deemed a nuisance, the permit will be revoked and penalties will be assessed. Additionally, all unpermitted false alarms will be invoiced at a rate to fully recover the cost of the fire-rescue response.

#### Annual Cost to Provide Service

Fire-Rescue related alarm permits rates were calculated to recover 100% of the costs to the department: SDFD operational costs to respond to up to two false alarms per year as allowed per the permit; information systems costs to sustain the alarm records system used to track and generate permits and false alarm infractions; and 1.00 Account Clerk position to administer the program, generate warning letters, and collect permit and penalty revenue. Appendix A details the calculations used to derive the \$18 permit rate.

There are currently no fees for fire-rescue related alarm permits or penalties. SDFD is proposing to partner with San Diego Police Department (SDPD) to incorporate fire alarm responses into the existing Burglar, Robbery and Emergency Alarm System. New permits will be issued for fire alarm systems and combination (fire and security). Additionally, penalties will be assessed for excessive false alarms or unpermitted systems with false alarms causing a fire-rescue or police response.

Combination Alarm Permit – Residential	\$118.25*
Combination Alarm Permit – Commercial	\$191.25*
Fire Alarm Only Permit - Residential and Commercial	\$18.00
Alarm Permit Revocation Penalty (First Revocation)	\$110.00**
Alarm Permit Revocation Penalty (Second Revocation)	\$220.00**
Alarm Permit Revocation Penalty (Third Revocation)	\$440.00**
Alarm Permit Revocation Penalty (Fourth Revocation)	\$2200.00**
Unpermitted False Alarm Fire-Rescue Response Penalty	\$85.00***

\*For combination alarms (both residential and commercial), \$18 was added to the existing approved SDPD Alarm permit rate.

\*\*Permit Revocation Penalties are the same as the SDPD penalties for alarm revocations.

\*\*\*The unpermitted response penalty is based on the average cost of response for a fully staffed single fire engine based on approved FY2011 cost recovery rates.

#### FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The City's Fiscal Year 2012 Proposed Budget included a revenue projection of \$910,000 for the collection of alarm related permit and penalty revenues, assuming a start date of December 1, 2011. Since that time, SDFD has refined the date the program will be able to go into effect, with

a new start date of November 1, 2011. Based on this new date, the revenue projection was increased to \$1,084,008, accounting for 8 months of collection in Fiscal Year 2012. Subsequent years' annual revenue is projected at \$1,626,008.

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CONTRACTING INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE):**

This action does not authorize entering into any contract or agreement.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL and/or COMMITTEE ACTION:**

- Ordinance O-19850 (2009) Amending Sections 33.3700 through 33.3717 Regulating Burglary, Robbery, and Emergency Alarm Systems
- Ordinance O-19321 (2004) Amending Sections 33.3700 through 33.3713 and Adding Sections 33.3716 through 33.3718 Regulating Burglary, Robbery, and Emergency Alarm Systems
- Ordinance O-17928 (1993) Adding Section 55.0314.0108 Relating to Administrative Penalty for False Fire Alarm (No longer part of the Municipal Code)
- Ordinance O-16099 (1984) Adding Section 33.3715 Relating to Enforcement of Burglary, Robbery, and Emergency Alarm Systems
- Ordinance O-15530 (1981) Amending Sections 33.3700 through 33.3713 Regulating Burglary, Robbery, and Emergency Alarm Systems

**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS:**

Two separate stakeholder presentations were conducted in May 2011. On May 3, 2011 San Diego Fire-Rescue Department hosted a stakeholder meeting to present proposals for FY2012 fees. Additionally, members of SDFD and SDPD attended the local chapter meeting of the Alarm Association. In both settings, the proposed plan for fire alarm permitting and false alarm penalties were presented and stakeholders were given an opportunity to provide input and ask questions. SDFD and SDPD will continue to work with the Alarm Association as the program is implemented over the next year.

**KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PROJECTED IMPACTS:**

All council districts

Mainar, Javier

Originating Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Chief/Chief Operating Officer

RESOLUTION NUMBER R-\_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF FINAL PASSAGE \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
SAN DIEGO APPROVING THE FIRE-RESCUE  
DEPARTMENT FEE SCHEDULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012  
FOR THE FIRE AND HARMFUL GAS ALARM PERMITTING  
AND FALSE ALARM FEES, AND AMENDING THE CITY OF  
SAN DIEGO RATEBOOK

WHEREAS, over the past three years, the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department [SDFD] has averaged 6,281 responses to false alarms per year, resulting in approximately 1,977 hours of effort at a cost to \$541,679 to the City of San Diego [City] ; and

WHEREAS, most false alarm responses are due to ringing alarms, including those in high-rise buildings; and

WHEREAS, if the SDFD has committed resources to unknowingly respond to a false alarm, those resources are unable to respond to other legitimate calls for service; and

WHEREAS, the intention of this proposal is to motivate the owners of malfunctioning fire alarm systems to take corrective actions to ensure SDFD resources are available for genuine emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the SDFD plans to partner with the San Diego Police Department [SDPD] to incorporate fire alarm responses into the existing burglary, robbery, and emergency alarm permitting and penalty system run by the SDPD beginning November 1, 2011; and

WHEREAS, permits will be issued for combination fire/harmful gas/other emergency alarm systems as well as just fire or harmful gas systems; and

WHEREAS, if a permitted system causes enough false alarms to be deemed a nuisance, the permit will be revoked and penalties will be assessed; and

WHEREAS, responses to false alarms of unpermitted alarm systems will also be penalized; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the City of San Diego (City) to establish fees to recover the costs of providing services in accordance with the San Diego Administrative Regulation 95.25; and

WHEREAS, San Diego Administrative Regulation 95.25 encourages transferring specific fee schedules listed in the San Diego Municipal Code (SDMC) and San Diego Resolutions to the standardized Ratebook maintained by the City Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the City has adopted a User Fee Policy dated March 20, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the authority to create this alarm permitting and false alarm penalty program for fire and harmful gas alarm systems is granted by San Diego Municipal Code, Chapter 5, Article 5, Division 51; and

WHEREAS, this fee is exempted from the restrictions placed on new and existing fees by the California Constitution article XIII A; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Treasurer, or other designated City Departments, is authorized to issue permits and assess the penalties, effective November 1, 2011, as reflected in Attachment One of this resolution and as codified in the San Diego Municipal Code, Chapter 5, Article 5, Division 51.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of San Diego authorizes the Mayor or his designee to establish fees for permits and penalties related to the San

Diego Fire-Rescue Department's false alarm program as reflected in Attachment One of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of San Diego authorizes the City Clerk to amend the City Ratebook to reflect the new permit and penalty rates as stated in Attachment One of this resolution.

APPROVED: JAN I. GOLDSMITH, City Attorney

By \_\_\_\_\_  
 Noah J. Brazier  
 Deputy City Attorney

NJB:jdf  
 XX/XX/XXXX  
 Or.Dept:Fire  
 Doc. No.: 202985

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was passed by the Council of the City of San Diego, at this meeting of \_\_\_\_\_.

ELIZABETH S. MALAND  
City Clerk

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy City Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
JERRY SANDERS, Mayor

Vetoed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
JERRY SANDERS, Mayor

ATTACHMENT ONE

<b>COSTS AND PENALTIES</b>	<b>PROPOSED RATE STRUCTURE FY2012</b>
Fire/harmful gas permit only (24 months)	\$18.00
Addition of fire/harmful gas alarm to current SDPD permitted alarm system (24 months)	SDPD rate + \$18.00
1 <sup>st</sup> permit revocation penalty	\$110.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> permit revocation penalty	\$220.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> permit revocation penalty	\$440.00
4 <sup>th</sup> and any subsequent revocations penalty	\$2,200.00
Unpermitted fire/harmful gas alarm penalty	\$85

DRAFT

<b>REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION</b> CITY OF SAN DIEGO				CERTIFICATE NUMBER (FOR COMPTROLLER'S USE ONLY) N/A	
TO: CITY COUNCIL		FROM (ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT): Fire-Rescue Department		DATE: 06/01/2011	
SUBJECT: Fire-Rescue Related False Alarms					
PRIMARY CONTACT (NAME, PHONE): Brian Fennessy,(619) 533-4302/MS 604			SECONDARY CONTACT (NAME, PHONE): Sara Diaz, (619) 533-3628/MS 604		
<b>COMPLETE FOR ACCOUNTING PURPOSES</b>					
FUND					
DEPT / FUNCTIONAL AREA					
ORG / COST CENTER					
OBJECT / GENERAL LEDGER ACCT					
JOB / WBS OR INTERNAL ORDER					
C.I.P./CAPITAL PROJECT No.					
AMOUNT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
FUND					
DEPT / FUNCTIONAL AREA					
ORG / COST CENTER					
OBJECT / GENERAL LEDGER ACCT					
JOB / WBS OR INTERNAL ORDER					
C.I.P./CAPITAL PROJECT No.					
AMOUNT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
COST SUMMARY (IF APPLICABLE):					
<b>ROUTING AND APPROVALS</b>					
CONTRIBUTORS/REVIEWERS:		APPROVING AUTHORITY		APPROVAL SIGNATURE	DATE SIGNED
Environmental Analysis		ORIG DEPT.		Mainar, Javier	6/13/2011
Liaison Office		CFO			
Financial Management		DEPUTY CHIEF			
Equal Opportunity Contracting		COO			
Comptroller		CITY ATTORNEY			
		COUNCIL PRESIDENTS OFFICE			
PREPARATION OF:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RESOLUTIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORDINANCE(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> AGREEMENT(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> DEED(S)
1) Approve an ordinance to amend Chapter 55 Article 5 Division 51 of the San Diego Municipal Code to include False Fire and Alarms.					

2) Authorize the City through its City Treasurer, or other City-designated department(s), to issue permits and assess permits and penalties effective November 1, 2011 in accordance with San Diego Municipal Code Chapter 55 Article 5 Division 51.

3) Authorize the Mayor or his designee to establish fees for permits and penalties related to fire-rescue false alarms as reflected in the summary of this Report and in the Attachment A provided.

4) Authorize the City Clerk to amend the City Ratebook to reflect the new permit and penalty rates as stated in the summary of this Report.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Approve Requested Actions

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS (REFER TO A.R. 3.20 FOR INFORMATION ON COMPLETING THIS SECTION)**

**COUNCIL DISTRICT(S):** ALL

**COMMUNITY AREA(S):** ALL

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:** This activity is not subject to CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(2).

**CITY CLERK INSTRUCTIONS:** Please send a copy of the final documents to Sara Diaz at MS 604



City of San Diego

# San Diego Fire-Rescue Fire False Alarm Changes for Fiscal Year 2012

JUNE 2011



## False Alarm Problem Statement

- **False Alarm Statistics for San Diego Fire-Rescue**
  - Average 6,281 false alarms per year
  - 1,977 Hours of Effort
  - Cost to the City = \$541,679 annually
- **Reduces the Ability to Respond to Actual Emergencies**
- **Respond to Certain Addresses Around the City as Many as 20-40 Times in a Single Year.**
- **Common Causes**
  - Lack of Maintenance on Installed Systems
  - Poorly Installed Systems
  - Communication with Alarm Service Providers



## Fire Alarm Response Model

- **Alarm Calls are Dispatched with the Closest Available Apparatus**
- **Most Common Response is by a Fully Staffed Fire Engine**
- **Hourly Cost Recovery (FY2011) for a Staffed Engine on Regular Duty:**
  - Apparatus Usage and Assignment = \$33 /hour
  - Fire Engine Staff (Captain, Engineer, Firefighter, and Firefighter Medic) = \$241 /hr
    - Total Hourly Cost Recovery Rate= \$274 /hr
- **Unit Task Time = 18.6 minutes**



## History of False Alarms in San Diego

- **City First Implemented a Burglar, Robbery, and Emergency Alarm Ordinance in 1981**
- **Approximately 42,000 Active Permits in the Police's Alarm System**
- **SDPD Manages the Alarm Permitting Process**
  - Issuing Permits
  - Collecting Revenue
  - Researching Incidents to Confirm a False Alarm
  - Issuing Warning Letters
  - Citizen and Industry Outreach



# San Diego Police Department Alarm Program

- **Permit**
  - 24 month
  - Alarm Business Obtains a Permit on Behalf of the Alarm User
  - \$100.24 Residential / \$173.25 Commercial
- **Permit Revocation**
  - Based on Repeated Occurrences of False Alarms
    - Repeats in 30/90/180/365 Days
  - Escalating Revocation Penalty \$110/\$220/\$440/\$2200
- **Unpermitted Penalty**
  - Cost Recovery Rate of \$146.25 per Call



## **Fire False Alarm Cost Recovery**

- **SDFD Directed by City Council to Quantify the Impacts of Fire-Rescue Related False Alarms and Explore Options for Cost Recovery**
- **Fire False Alarms Included in the Office of the Independent Budget Analyst's Menu of Budget Options**
  - February and April, 2011
  - Identified as Feasible to Implement in FY 2012
- **Intent is to Reduce the Number of Fire-Rescue Related False Alarms and their Corresponding Operational Impact**



## Fire False Alarm Options Considered

- **Permits vs. Nuisance Alarms**
  - Permit = Registered Alarm Systems
    - Benefit of Known Points of Contact
  - Nuisance Alarm = Unregistered Alarm System, Only Fees or Penalties are When the System Triggers Multiple False Alarms
    - No Known Points of Contact
    - Difficult to Locate Responsible Party
  - Partner with existing SDPD Alarm Program
  - Separate Fire-Rescue Program
- **Internal vs. 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Administration**



## Proposed Strategy

- **Partner with San Diego Police Department to Amend the Current “Burglary, Robbery, and Emergency Alarm Systems” Section of the Municipal Code to Incorporate Fire-Rescue Related Response**
  - Common Administration
  - Shared Co-located Staffing
  - Common Systems and Procedures
  - Both Police and Fire-Rescue False Alarm Responses Will be Tracked and Will Count Against an Active Permit



# Proposed Changes

## Incorporate Fire-Rescue Responses into the Existing Police Alarm Permitting Process

Costs and Penalties	Current SDPD Rate Structure	Proposed SDFD Rate Structure for FY2012
Residential Permit (24 months)	\$100.25	SDPD Rate + \$18
Commercial Permit (24 months)	\$173.25	SDPD Rate + \$18
Fire Alarm Only (24 months)	N/A	\$18.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Permit Revocation Penalty	\$110.00	\$110.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Permit Revocation Penalty	\$220.00	\$220.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Permit Revocation Penalty	\$440.00	\$440.00
4 <sup>th</sup> and Subsequent Permit Revocations Penalty	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00
Unpermitted Penalty	\$146.25	\$85.00 (Fire) \$146.25 (Police)



# Comparison to Other Agencies

Jurisdiction	Permit Cost and Period	1 <sup>st</sup> False Alarm	2 <sup>nd</sup> False Alarm	3 <sup>rd</sup> False Alarm	4 <sup>th</sup> False Alarm	5 <sup>th</sup> False Alarm	Addtl	Notes
Carlsbad (1985)	\$60/\$60 \$458/\$585 Indefinite	\$0	\$85 \$310	\$160 \$610	\$305 \$1315	\$305 \$1315	\$305 \$1315	Existing Fee Structure New Proposed Fees
Del Mar (2010)	No permit	\$0	\$0	\$60	\$75	\$100	\$150	
El Cajon (1995)	No Permit	\$0	\$0	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75	
Escondido (2005)	\$15 12 months	\$0	\$0	\$50	\$100	\$150	\$200	If not registered, fees double.
Lemon Grove (2009)	\$75 Indefinitely	\$0	\$0	\$150	N/A	N/A	N/A	Occupancy is billed at most once per year.
National City (1998)	\$20/\$40 24 month	\$0	\$0	\$853	\$878	\$903	\$953	
Oceanside (2010)	No Charge Indefinite	\$0	\$100	\$200	\$500	\$1000	\$1000	
Poway (1994)	\$69 Indefinite	\$0	\$0	\$75	\$150	\$150	\$150	External billing company used.
<b>San Diego Proposed</b>	<b>\$18 24 month</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$195</b>	<b>\$305</b>	<b>\$525</b>	<b>\$2,285</b>	
San Marcos (1994)	\$0 Indefinite	\$0	\$0	\$75	\$150	\$250	\$300	Permit required upon installation
Santee (1989)	\$18/\$54/\$72 Indefinite	\$0	\$0	\$50	\$75			Permit part of the building permit process



# Comparison to Other Agencies

Jurisdiction	Permit Cost	1 <sup>st</sup> False Alarm	2 <sup>nd</sup> False Alarm	3 <sup>rd</sup> False Alarm	4 <sup>th</sup> False Alarm	5 <sup>th</sup> False Alarm	Addtl False Alarms	Notes
Houston	\$60	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$300	\$35 for renewals, uses grouping system
Phoenix	No Permit	\$0	\$105	\$105	\$105	\$105	\$105	One free false alarm after class attendance.
San Francisco	No Permit	N/C	N/C	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$500	
Seattle	\$10 12 months	\$115 - \$230	\$115 - \$230	Alarm companies permitted and are charged for the false alarms				



## Fiscal Considerations

- **The City’s Fiscal Year 2012 Proposed Revenue Budget Includes Fire-Rescue Related Alarm Revenue**
- **Revenue Estimation was Calculated Assuming New Fees will Not Go into Effect until November 1, 2011**
  - Allows Time to Transition to the Combined Police and Fire-Rescue Alarm Policies and Procedures

Revenue Type	Estimated Annual Revenue	Estimated Monthly Revenue	Adjusted for 8 months
Permit	\$370,440	\$30,870	\$246,960
Revocation Penalties and Cost Recovery	\$1,255,568	\$104,631	\$837,048
Total	\$1,626,008	\$135,501	\$1,084,008



**THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
MAYOR JERRY SANDERS**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: June 2, 2011  
TO: City Clerk  
FROM: Jay Goldstone, Chief Operating Officer/ Javier Mainar, Fire Chief  
SUBJECT: Ratebook of Fees and Charges

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This memorandum is accompanied by revisions and additions to the Ratebook of City Fees and Charges.

<u>Department</u>	<u>Title</u>
Fire-Rescue	Combination Alarm Permit – Residential
Fire-Rescue	Combination Alarm Permit - Commercial
Fire-Rescue	Fire Alarm Only Permit - Residential and Commercial
Fire-Rescue	Alarm Permit Revocation Penalty (First Revocation)
Fire-Rescue	Alarm Permit Revocation Penalty (Second Revocation)
Fire-Rescue	Alarm Permit Revocation Penalty (Third Revocation)
Fire-Rescue	Alarm Permit Revocation Penalty (Fourth Revocation)
Fire-Rescue	Unpermitted False Alarm Fire-Rescue Response Penalty



**THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
MAYOR JERRY SANDERS**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: June 2, 2011  
TO: All Interested Parties  
FROM: Jay Goldstone, Chief Operating Officer/ Javier Mainar, Fire Chief  
SUBJECT: Public Notice of Proposed New Fee

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SUBJECT FEE: Combination Alarm Permit - Residential  
IMPLEMENTATION DATE: November 1, 2011  
FEE DESCRIPTION: 24 month permit for residences with a multiple sensor (security/fire/CO) alarm system.  
FEE AMOUNT: \$118.25  
EXPLANATION OF CHANGE: New fee  
DEPARTMENTAL CONTACT: Brian Fennessy  
San Diego Fire-Rescue  
(619) 533-4302  
1010 Second Ave, Suite 400  
San Diego, CA 92101

Note: This proposed fee may be appealed to the City Council if you so desire and if such request for appeal is requested prior to the above implementation date. Requests for appeal should be directed to San Diego Fire-Rescue.



**THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
MAYOR JERRY SANDERS**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: June 2, 2011  
TO: All Interested Parties  
FROM: Jay Goldstone, Chief Operating Officer/ Javier Mainar, Fire Chief  
SUBJECT: Public Notice of Proposed New Fee

---

SUBJECT FEE: Combination Alarm Permit - Commercial  
IMPLEMENTATION DATE: November 1, 2011  
FEE DESCRIPTION: 24 month permit for commercial occupancies with a multiple sensor (security/fire/CO) alarm system.  
FEE AMOUNT: \$191.25  
EXPLANATION OF CHANGE: New fee  
DEPARTMENTAL CONTACT: Brian Fennessy  
San Diego Fire-Rescue  
(619) 533-4302  
1010 Second Ave, Suite 400  
San Diego, CA 92101

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**THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
MAYOR JERRY SANDERS**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: June 2, 2011  
TO: All Interested Parties  
FROM: Jay Goldstone, Chief Operating Officer/ Javier Mainar, Fire Chief  
SUBJECT: Public Notice of Proposed New Fee

---

SUBJECT FEE: Fire Alarm Only Permit - Residential and Commercial  
IMPLEMENTATION DATE: November 1, 2011  
FEE DESCRIPTION: 24 month permit for residences or commercial structures with a fire alarm system.  
FEE AMOUNT: \$18  
EXPLANATION OF CHANGE: New fee  
DEPARTMENTAL CONTACT: Brian Fennessy  
San Diego Fire-Rescue  
(619) 533-4302  
1010 Second Ave, Suite 400  
San Diego, CA 92101

Note: This proposed fee may be appealed to the City Council if you so desire and if such request for appeal is requested prior to the above implementation date. Requests for appeal should be directed to San Diego Fire-Rescue.



**THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
MAYOR JERRY SANDERS**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: June 2, 2011  
TO: All Interested Parties  
FROM: Jay Goldstone, Chief Operating Officer/ Javier Mainar, Fire Chief  
SUBJECT: Public Notice of Proposed New Fee

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SUBJECT FEE: Alarm Permit Revocation Penalty (First Revocation)  
IMPLEMENTATION DATE: November 1, 2011  
FEE DESCRIPTION: Penalty fine for an alarm permit revocation because an alarm system has been deemed a public nuisance by Chapter 55, Article 5, Division 51 or Chapter 55, Article 3, Division 37 of the City of San Diego Municipal Code (1<sup>st</sup> Revocation)  
FEE AMOUNT: \$110  
EXPLANATION OF CHANGE: New fee  
DEPARTMENTAL CONTACT: Brian Fennessy  
San Diego Fire-Rescue  
(619) 533-4302  
1010 Second Ave, Suite 400  
San Diego, CA 92101

Note: This proposed fee may be appealed to the City Council if you so desire and if such request for appeal is requested prior to the above implementation date. Requests for appeal should be directed to San Diego Fire-Rescue.



**THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
MAYOR JERRY SANDERS**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: June 2, 2011  
TO: All Interested Parties  
FROM: Jay Goldstone, Chief Operating Officer/ Javier Mainar, Fire Chief  
SUBJECT: Public Notice of Proposed New Fee

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SUBJECT FEE: Alarm Permit Revocation Penalty (Second Revocation)  
IMPLEMENTATION DATE: November 1, 2011  
FEE DESCRIPTION: Penalty fine for an alarm permit revocation because an alarm system has been deemed an public nuisance by Chapter 55, Article 5, Division 51 or Chapter 55, Article 3, Division 37 of the City of San Diego Municipal Code (2<sup>nd</sup> Revocation)  
FEE AMOUNT: \$220  
EXPLANATION OF CHANGE: New fee  
DEPARTMENTAL CONTACT: Brian Fennessy  
San Diego Fire-Rescue  
(619) 533-4302  
1010 Second Ave, Suite 400  
San Diego, CA 92101

Note: This proposed fee may be appealed to the City Council if you so desire and if such request for appeal is requested prior to the above implementation date. Requests for appeal should be directed to San Diego Fire-Rescue.



**THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
MAYOR JERRY SANDERS**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: June 2, 2011  
TO: All Interested Parties  
FROM: Jay Goldstone, Chief Operating Officer/ Javier Mainar, Fire Chief  
SUBJECT: Public Notice of Proposed New Fee

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SUBJECT FEE: Alarm Permit Revocation Penalty (Third Revocation)  
IMPLEMENTATION DATE: November 1, 2011  
FEE DESCRIPTION: Penalty fine for an alarm permit revocation because an alarm system has been deemed a public nuisance by Chapter 55, Article 5, Division 51 or Chapter 55, Article 3, Division 37 of the City of San Diego Municipal Code (3<sup>rd</sup> Revocation)  
FEE AMOUNT: \$440  
EXPLANATION OF CHANGE: New fee  
DEPARTMENTAL CONTACT: Brian Fennessy  
San Diego Fire-Rescue  
(619) 533-4302  
1010 Second Ave, Suite 400  
San Diego, CA 92101

Note: This proposed fee may be appealed to the City Council if you so desire and if such request for appeal is requested prior to the above implementation date. Requests for appeal should be directed to San Diego Fire-Rescue.



**THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
MAYOR JERRY SANDERS**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: June 2, 2011  
TO: All Interested Parties  
FROM: Jay Goldstone, Chief Operating Officer/ Javier Mainar, Fire Chief  
SUBJECT: Public Notice of Proposed New Fee

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SUBJECT FEE: Alarm Permit Revocation Penalty (Fourth Revocation)  
IMPLEMENTATION DATE: November 1, 2011  
FEE DESCRIPTION: Penalty fine for an alarm permit revocation because an alarm system has been deemed a public nuisance by Chapter 55, Article 5, Division 51 or Chapter 55, Article 3, Division 37 of the City of San Diego Municipal Code (4<sup>th</sup> Revocation)  
FEE AMOUNT: \$2,200  
EXPLANATION OF CHANGE: New fee  
DEPARTMENTAL CONTACT: Brian Fennessy  
San Diego Fire-Rescue  
(619) 533-4302  
1010 Second Ave, Suite 400  
San Diego, CA 92101

Note: This proposed fee may be appealed to the City Council if you so desire and if such request for appeal is requested prior to the above implementation date. Requests for appeal should be directed to San Diego Fire-Rescue.



**THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
MAYOR JERRY SANDERS**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: June 2, 2011  
TO: All Interested Parties  
FROM: Jay Goldstone, Chief Operating Officer/ Javier Mainar, Fire Chief  
SUBJECT: Public Notice of Proposed New Fee

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SUBJECT FEE: Unpermitted False Alarm Fire-Rescue Response Penalty  
IMPLEMENTATION DATE: November 1, 2011  
FEE DESCRIPTION: Penalty for each fire-rescue false alarm response to a structure, building, or residence that has an alarm system but does not have an alarm permit.  
FEE AMOUNT: \$85  
EXPLANATION OF CHANGE: New fee  
DEPARTMENTAL CONTACT: Brian Fennessy  
San Diego Fire-Rescue  
(619) 533-4302  
1010 Second Ave, Suite 400  
San Diego, CA 92101

Note: This proposed fee may be appealed to the City Council if you so desire and if such request for appeal is requested prior to the above implementation date. Requests for appeal should be directed to San Diego Fire-Rescue.

## Appendix A – Fire False Alarm Permit Fee Modification Calculation

Permit Fee Cost Recovery Includes:

- Operations Costs of Response
- Data Systems Maintenance Costs
- Administration Costs for Program

### **Operations Costs of Response**

Annual Estimated Effort for False Alarm Calls Not Charged Under the Permit Regulations

3 Year Average Number of 1st and 2nd False Alarm Responses	Average Effort per False Alarm Response (in Hours)	Total Annual Effort (in Hours)	Cost Recovery Rate (1 Engine)*	Estimated Annual Expense - Operations
3229	0.31	1001	\$274	\$274,271

\* Approved FY11 Cost Recovery Rate for one fully staffed engine company including vehicle usage and assignment fees

### **Administration Costs**

Rank	Cost Recovery Hourly Rate	Total Annual Effort (in Hours)	Estimated Expense - Administration
Account Clerk	\$35.91**	2080	\$74,692.80

\*\* Approved FY11 Cost Recovery Rates

### **Total Annual Cost**

Operations	\$274,271		
Data Systems	\$29,036		
Administration	\$74,693		
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1-year	\$378,000	2-year	\$756,000

Number of Active 24 Month Alarm Permits	42,000
Proposed Permit Increase	\$18.00
24 month estimated revenue	\$756,000.00
12 month estimated revenue	\$378,000.00



### *False Alarm Problem in San Diego*

False alarms consume limited emergency resources. Over the past three years, San Diego Fire-Rescue (SDFD) averaged 6,281 false alarms per year, resulting in 1,977 hours of effort at a cost of \$541,679 to the City (calendar years 2008, 2009, 2010 combined average statistics). The most prominent causes for false fire alarm responses are ringing alarms, including high-rise buildings. Ringing alarms represent 93% of the false alarm incidents and 1,690 hours annually. When SDFD's resources are committed to a false alarm response, they are unable to respond to other calls for service. Directed by City Council, SDFD has been exploring options to curb fire false alarm responses, and recover costs for those false alarms that do occur.

### *San Diego Fire-Rescue's Proposed Strategy for Fire False Alarms*

SDFD is proposing to partner with San Diego Police Department (SDPD) to incorporate fire alarm responses into the existing Burglar, Robbery and Emergency Alarm System. Permit amounts increase by an additional \$18 for those with fire alarm monitoring to recover the costs of first and second fire related false alarms.

<b>Costs and Penalties</b>	<b>Current SDPD Rate Structure</b>	<b>Proposed SDFD Rate Structure for FY2012</b>
Residential Permit (24 months)	\$100.25	SDPD Rate + \$18
Commercial Permit (24 months)	\$173.25	SDPD Rate + \$18
Fire Alarm Only (24 months)	N/A	\$18.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Permit Revocation Penalty	\$110.00	\$110.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Permit Revocation Penalty	\$220.00	\$220.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Permit Revocation Penalty	\$440.00	\$440.00
4 <sup>th</sup> and Subsequent Permit Revocations Penalty	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00
Unpermitted Penalty	\$146.25	\$85

This strategy maximizes the existing processes, procedures, and internal City staff already administering a false alarm permitting system within the City of San Diego administered through SDPD. Existing Alarm Permit fees will be adjusted to include a fire alarm component. Revenue will be collected each year through permitting to fully cost recover the effort of SDFD to respond to up to two false alarms per year, without the citizens incurring a charge above their permit fees. For three or more false alarms per year, permits are revoked and penalties are imposed until a system is proven to be in good working order.

### *Impacts in Fiscal Year 2012*

The City's Fiscal Year 2012 Proposed Budget included a revenue projection of \$910,000 for the collection of alarm related permit and penalty revenues, assuming a start date of December 1, 2011. Since that time, SDFD has refined the date the program will be able to go into effect, with a new start date of November 1, 2011. Based on this new date, the revenue projection was increased to \$1,084,008, accounting for 8 months of collection in Fiscal Year 2012. Subsequent years' annual revenue is projected at \$1,626,008.

<b>Revenue Type</b>	<b>Estimated Annual Revenue</b>	<b>Estimated Monthly Revenue</b>	<b>Adjusted for 8 months</b>
Permit	\$370,440	\$30,870	\$246,960
Revocation Penalties and Cost Recovery	\$1,255,568	\$104,631	\$837,048
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,626,008</b>	<b>\$135,501</b>	<b>\$1,084,008</b>

DOCKET SUPPORTING INFORMATION CITY OF SAN DIEGO <b>EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CONTRACTING PROGRAM EVALUATION</b>	DATE: June 16, 2011
SUBJECT: Fire-Rescue Related False Alarms (E-1472)	

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR INFORMATION**

Recommended Contractor: San Diego Fire Department (SDFD)  
Amount of this Action: \$1,659,192 (revenue projection increase to City)  
Funding Source: City of San Diego

**SUBCONTRACTOR PARTICIPATION**

There is no subcontractor activity associated with this action.

**EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMPLIANCE**

Equal Opportunity: Required

This action does not authorize entering into any contract or agreement.

Any future related action will be subject to the City's Equal Opportunity Contracting (San Diego Ordinance No. 18173, Section 22.2701 through 22.2708) and the City's Non-Discrimination in Contracting Ordinance (San Diego Municipal Code Sections 22.3501 through 22.3517).

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

RLL