



False Security Alarm Ordinance

September 18, 2012



Presentation Outline

- **Background Information**
- **False Security Alarm Ordinance**
- **Suggested Revision**
- **Proposed Action**



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Background Information

- On November 1, 2011, the Sheriff's Office updated the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on its false security alarm issues and its need to establish a false alarm ordinance
- The Sheriff's Office reports that over 50,000 false alarms are received each year
- Due to the potential danger of a crime in progress, deputies are dispatched to the scene
- Approximately 99.5 percent are false alarms



Background Information (Con't)

- Deputies spend over 20,000 hours annually responding to false alarms
- False alarms are mostly caused by improper installation and operator errors
- Many national and local agencies have enacted false alarm ordinances
- These ordinances have helped to significantly reduce false alarm responses
- Such local agencies are cities of Orlando, Winter Park, Casselberry and Maitland



Background Information (Con't)

- In 1996, the City of Orlando enacted its false alarm ordinance
- If we have results similar to the City of Orlando, we can expect a 2/3 reduction in false alarms over the next several years
- Enactment of such an ordinance in Orange County would reduce false alarms and increase the number of “deputy hours” available to respond to legitimate calls for service in unincorporated Orange County



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False Security Alarm Ordinance

- If approved, this ordinance shall become effective January 1, 2013
- Prior to implementation next year, there will be a preparation period
- An Alarm Administrator will be hired by the Sheriff to oversee the program
- The Sheriff's Office will proceed with an RFP to purchase software to manage the program
- The software will be used to track false alarms and to generate warnings, notices and fines



False Security Alarm Ordinance (Con't)

- After selecting the software provider, the Sheriff's Office will coordinate training and awareness classes for both the deputies and the public
- The intent of the ordinance is to reduce the amount of false alarms received by the Sheriff in unincorporated Orange County only
- This ordinance will encourage Alarm Users and Alarm Businesses to maintain the reliability and proper use of Alarm Systems



False Security Alarm Ordinance (Con't)

- It governs all Alarm Systems that summon a law enforcement response, and requires registration, establishes fees, and provide fines for violations
- The Sheriff's Alarm Administrator may excuse false alarms due to lightning strikes, electrical outages or if proof is provided that a false alarm occurred from a system malfunction that has been repaired
- The ordinance allows for a Service Fee, Registration Fee and Reinstatement Fee to be set by the BCC through a resolution



False Security Alarm Ordinance (Con't)

- All fees are payable to the Board of County Commissioners
- A Registration Fee is required to be paid by an Alarm Business that sell, install, maintain, repair and monitor Alarm Systems. The Registration Fee is \$45.00 that is renewable every other year
- A Service Fee schedule is established
- A False Alarm Warning is issued after responding to a false alarm



False Security Alarm Ordinance (Con't)

- No fees will be charged for the first 3 false alarms within a 12 month period, calculated from the date of the first alarm
- Fees for false alarms 4 through 6 are \$50.00 each
- Fees for false alarms 7 through 12 are \$100.00 each
- Fees for false alarms in excess of 12 are \$200.00 each



False Security Alarm Ordinance (Con't)

- The Sheriff's Alarm Administrator is authorized to issue an Order of Discontinued Service to an Alarm User for failure to meet ordinance requirements
- Such non-compliance issues may be for not paying fees or having excessive false alarms (more than 12 in a 12-month period)
- After compliance and if an Order of Discontinued Service is rescinded by the Sheriff's Alarm Administrator, a Reinstatement Fee of \$45.00 is required



False Security Alarm Ordinance (Con't)

- Any dispute about false alarms that cannot be resolved by the Sheriff's Alarm Administrator may be appealed to the Sheriff's Director of Emergency Communications



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Suggested Revision

- Page 3, line 111: Strike the words “be certified by”



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Proposed Action

Request Board adopt the proposed ordinance with proposed amendment.



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