



City of Cambridge

22'
IN CITY COUNCIL

Councillor William H. Walsh

September 18, 1989

- WHEREAS: Taxpayers deserve assurance that a dollar of value is the product of every dollar spent in the city budget, it is essential that we make sure that those who provide critical city services are not given the run around, even unconsciously, in the process of doing their job by those whom they serve. This applies particularly to the wasteful use of resources and equipment, not to mention the risk to lives of departmental personnel of the Cambridge Fire Department, which are the consequences of unnecessary runs made in response to false fire alarms, be these the product of prank or sensoring equipment which is malfunctioning; and
- WHEREAS: The Fire Department in the City of Boston has initiated a successful program whereby, in the course of examining monthly printouts of runs made and alarms answered, attention is focused upon institutions and entities to which repeated runs have been made, which runs have turned out to be unnecessary due to equipment failure or the ringing of a false alarm. Fines have been levied against the institution or entity for each such unnecessary run. The real value of the fine is not so much to help pay for the unnecessary use of fire equipment and personnel, but to get the attention of institutional administrators so that necessary changes will be made which will insure that Fire Department personnel and equipment will be more available to respond to legitimate runs and not be forced to respond to those which have proven to be unnecessary; now therefore be it
- ORDERED: That the City Manager direct the Chief of the Cambridge Fire Department to begin a 3-month evaluation of printouts of alarms answered and runs made, effective October 1 through December 31, 1989, and pinpoint repeated sources of these alarms which have resulted in unnecessary runs, be these institutional or individual, and provide this compilation of data to this City Council no later than January 15, 1990 so that , should the data warrant it, a system of fines will be initiated and fully operative in the City of Cambridge effective on March 1, 1990.



City of Cambridge

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IN CITY COUNCIL

September 18, 1989

COUNCILLOR WALSH

WHEREAS: Taxpayers deserve assurance that a dollar of value is the product of every dollar spent in the city budget, it is essential that we make sure that those who provide critical city services are not given the run around, even unconsciously, in the process of doing their job by those whom they serve, this applies particularly to the wasteful use of resources and equipment, not to mention the risk to lives of departmental personnel of the Cambridge Fire Department, which are the consequences of unnecessary runs made in response to false fire alarms, be these the product of prank or sensoring equipment which is malfunctioning; and

WHEREAS: The Fire Department in the City of Boston has initiated a successful program whereby, in the course of examining monthly printouts of runs made and alarms answered, attention is focused upon institutions and entities to which repeated runs have been made, which runs have turned out to be unnecessary due to equipment failure or the ringing of a false alarm and fines have been levied against the institution or entity for each such unnecessary run, the real value of the fine is not so much to help pay for the unnecessary use of fire equipment and personnel, but to get the attention of institutional administrators so that necessary changes will be made which will insure that Fire Department personnel and equipment will be more available to respond to legitimate runs and not be forced to response to those which have proven to be unnecessary; now therefore be it

ORDERED: That the City Manager direct the Chief of the Cambridge Fire Department to begin a three month evaluation of printouts of alarms answered and runs made, effective October 1 through December 31, 1989, and pinpoint repeated sources of these alarms which have resulted in unnecessary runs, be these institutional or individual, and provide this compilation of data to this City Council no later than January 15, 1990 so that, should the data warrant it, a system of fines will be initiated and fully operative in the City of Cambridge effective on March 1, 1990.

In City Council September 18, 1989.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.
Attest:- John E. Flynn, Deputy City Clerk.

A true copy;

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John E. Flynn".

ATTEST:-

John E. Flynn, Deputy City Clerk.

Order # 22 F-392

Councillor Walsh re: printout of alarms answered
by the Fire Department.

In City Council,

Sept. 18, 1989

Order adopted