



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO: Commissioner Ronnie Watson

DATE: September 15, 2003

FROM: Captain Richard Bongiorno
Administration Section

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "RB" with a stylized flourish.

SUBJECT: Council Order # 23, dated 9/8/03

At your direction an audit was conducted of false alarm calls for the past year and totals approx. 6000 calls for service generating police response. Our data-base does not differentiate between commercial and residential false alarms, thus, we would have had to manually review all computer print outs by month (approx. 75 pages of data per month) for false alarms. To physically review all false alarms for the past year would have meant a review of approximately 1000 pages of data to determine residential alarm call with reasons.

I conducted a sample, or approximately 1000 total false alarm calls. My findings reveal approximately 175 of the 1000 false alarms checked are from residential addresses with a myriad of reasons for false alarms. Of the 175 calls for service according to the data print outs, 8 may be thought to be from elderly or confused persons from the LBJ Apartments, Cadbury Commons and two private residences. The reasons provided by responding police to false alarms note the following:

- Work persons on site without a code
- House sitters
- Pet sitters
- Friends/relatives without codes
- Animals (motion detectors)
- Homes secure, no one at home (the large majority)
- Accidental: no specific reasons given

Only one of the 175 residential false alarm reviews was a specific mention of a confused elderly person. The Record Unit does have monthly printouts of false alarms going back the past 18 months. It should be noted that \$100 fines for false alarms only reach that level after four (4) prior reports of false alarms and police response at one address during a calendar year.



7.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager Richard G. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

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September 29, 2003

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Please find attached a report from Police Captain Richard Bongiorno sent to Police Commissioner Ronnie Weston in response to Awaiting Report Item Number 03-99, regarding a report on the City's policy of assessing \$100 fines for the sounding of house burglar alarms.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
Attachment

Cal 1

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Consent Agenda #7

Transmitting communication from
Robert W. Healy, City Manager,
relative to **Awaiting Report Item
Number 03-99**, regarding report on
the City's policy of assessing \$100
fines for the sounding of house
burglar alarms.

In City Council September 29, 2003

**CHARTER RIGHT EXERCISED
BY COUNCILLOR TOOMEY**

In City Council October 20, 2003

**PLACED ON FILE UNDER
RULE 19--**