

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

As amended by the Public Safety Committee at the February 27, 2024, committee meeting.

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. _____ C.M.S.

ORDINANCE AMENDING OAKLAND MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 8.02 (BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEMS) TO (1) REQUIRE ALL NEW ALARM INSTALLATIONS TO BE VERIFIED RESPONSE ALARM SYSTEMS; (2) PROHIBIT ALARM BUSINESSES FROM MAKING DISPATCH REQUESTS BASED ON NON-VERIFIED ALARMS; AND (3) IMPOSE CIVIL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; AND ADOPTING CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT EXEMPTIONS

WHEREAS, excessive false alarms unduly burden the Oakland Police Department's law enforcement resources; and

WHEREAS, governments and private companies wish to make the most effective use of their resources; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this ordinance is to establish reasonable standards for users, to ensure that alarm owners are held responsible for the proper operation of their alarm systems; and

WHEREAS, public safety agencies recognize the significant burdens placed on state and local law enforcement resources due to responding to false alarm calls; and

WHEREAS, adopting these amendments will redirect the Oakland Police Department's resources from responding to false alarms to more critical matters, ultimately contributing to a safer and more secure community; and

WHEREAS, efficient resource management is crucial for the success of law enforcement. Ensuring optimal use of available resources can lead to increased productivity; and

WHEREAS, adequately installed, monitored, and operated alarm systems are practical tools that can identify criminal offenses in progress, and will lead to a reduction in the incidents of false alarms as well as enhance the safety of responding law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, False alarms burden law enforcement time and resources. Municipalities must take proactive measures to reduce false alarms so that personnel can focus on genuine emergencies and provide better services to communities; and

WHEREAS, reducing false alarms and establishing user responsibilities will improve efficiency and productivity, benefiting all parties.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Recitals: The City Council of the City of Oakland hereby determines that the preceding recitals are true and correct and an integral part of the Council's decision to enact this legislation, and hereby adopts and incorporates them into this Ordinance.

SECTION 2. Amendment of Oakland Municipal Code Section 8.02.010 (Definitions). Oakland Municipal Code 8.02.010 is hereby amended as set forth below (additions are show as double underline and deletions are show as ~~strikethrough~~):
8.02.010 Definitions.

"Alarm Administrator" means a person or persons designated by the Oakland Chief of Police to administer the City's security alarm program to issue citations and levy fees pursuant to this Chapter.

"Alarm Appeals Officer" means a person or persons designated by the Oakland Chief of Police to provide impartial judgment and determine whether fees that have been levied for false alarms are justified when a person appeals the assessment of those fees.

"Alarm business" means the business by an individual, partnership, corporation or other entity of selling, leasing, maintaining, servicing, repairing, altering, replacing, moving, installing, or monitoring an alarm system in an alarm site. Alarm businesses do not include persons doing installation or repair work solely on premises they own, lease, or rent where such work is performed without compensation of any kind (i.e., "do-it-yourselfers".)

"Alarm dispatch request" means communication to the police has been initiated by an alarm business (via police dispatch) indicating a security alarm system has been activated at a particular alarm site and Police Department response is requested to that alarm site.

"Alarm installation company" means a person in the business of selling, providing, maintaining, servicing, repairing, altering, replacing, moving, or installing an alarm system at an alarm site.

"Alarm response manager (ARM)" means a person designated by an alarm business or installation company to act as a primary point of contact for the jurisdiction's Alarm Administrator.

"Alarm site" means a single fixed premises or location served by an alarm system or systems. Each unit, if served by a separate alarm system in a multi-unit building or complex, shall be considered a separate alarm site.

"Alarm system" means a device or series of interconnected devices, including but not limited to, systems interconnected with hard wiring or radio frequency signals, which are designed to emit and/or transmit a remote or local audible, visual or electronic signal indicating that an intrusion may either be in progress or being attempted at the alarm site. Alarm system includes both monitored and unmonitored systems. Alarm system does not include an alarm installed in a vehicle or someone's person unless the vehicle or the personal alarm is permanently located at a site.

"Alarm user" means any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other entity who (which) uses an alarm system at a particular alarm site.

"Automatic voice dialer" means any electrical, electronic, mechanical, or other device capable of being programmed to send a prerecorded voice message (when activated or if self activated) over a telephone line, radio or other communication system, to the police department.

"Dual zone system" means an alarms system that includes motion detection covering the immediate area inside of all major points of entry with magnetic entry sensors.

"Duress alarm" means a silent alarm signal generated by the manual activation of a device intended to signal a crisis requesting a police response.

"False alarm" means response to an alarm dispatch request where the responding police officer finds no reasonable evidence of the commission or attempted commission of a crime, or determines the alarm activation is the result of mechanical failure, improper installation or maintenance, or alarm user negligence.

"Hold up alarm." See "Robbery alarm."

"Major point of entry" means any door through which a person can walk through, including front doors, rear doors, and patio doors of any style.

"Notice of non-compliance" is a formal notification by the alarm administrator to the alarm business of any violations of this Chapter.

"Oakland security alarm business license" is a license required to provide installation and/or monitoring services to alarm users in the City issued by the Police Department to an alarm business or installation company.

"OPD" means the City of Oakland Police Department.

"Panic alarm." See "Duress alarm."

"Person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, association, organization or similar entity.

"Robbery alarm" or "hold-up alarm" means a silent alarm signal generated by the manual activation of a device intended to signal a robbery is in progress or has just occurred.

"Subscriber" means an alarm user who is a customer of an alarm business.

"Verified Response Alarm System" means an alarm system that is monitored by an alarm business and has capacity for secondary indication that a burglary is in progress such as audio, video, or motion detection covering the area immediately inside all alarmed major points of entry.

"Unmonitored alarm system" means an alarm system that is not actively monitored by an alarm business and whose function it is to evoke police response solely by means of a generally audible and/or visible signal.

SECTION 3. Amendment of Chapter 8.02.020 (Alarm registration and permits).
Oakland Municipal Code 8.02.020 is hereby amended as set forth below (additions are show as double underline and deletions are show as ~~strikethrough~~):

8.02.020 Alarm registration and permits.

- A. Police response to private alarm sites in the City is a privilege available only to those alarm users who have a current City alarm permit.
- B. No alarm business providing monitoring service to security alarm sites in the City shall activate alarm monitoring service or initiate alarm dispatch requests relative to any alarm site in the City that is not properly registered in accordance with this Chapter.
- C. Alarm permits are valid for one year.
- D. Alarm permits are issued to a person or persons ("alarm user") having bona fide ownership or control of an alarm site (i.e., home owner, business owner, renter, leaseholder, etc.) specifically for that alarm site or address. Alarm permits remain in the name(s) of the alarm user of record until a change of ownership or control of the alarm site occurs.
- E. Alarm permits are valid only to the alarm site and alarm user; alarm permits are not transferable. No refund of a permit or permit renewal fee will be made. A new alarm site permit must be obtained whenever there is a change of ownership or control of an alarm site.
- F. The initial permit application shall be given to the alarm user by the alarm installation company at the time of alarm installation. The application and fees shall be submitted by the alarm installation company to the alarm administrator (or designee) within 30 days of the installation date.
- G. Registration information is determined by the alarm administrator and shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - 1. Name and address of the alarm user (i.e., the person financially responsible for operation of the alarm system being registered).
 - 2. Home, business, and cellular telephone number(s) of the alarm user.
 - 3. Name, address, and telephone number of the alarm business providing monitoring service to the system, if any.
 - 4. Alternate telephone number for verification (i.e., secondary cell phone or other telephone designated by the alarm user).
 - 5. Signature of the alarm user verifying that the information on the permit is factual, and agreement to pay the fees associated with false alarms.

- 6. Name, address, and telephone number of individual or company who installed alarm system and date of installation.
- 7. Whether the system is a verified response alarm system and type of verification system used (video, audio, dual zone motion detection, or any combination of the same).
- H. Upon receipt of a completed application and fees, the alarm administrator (or designee) shall issue a security alarm permit number to the alarm user.
- I. The security alarm permit number assigned to an alarm user remains the same for as long as the alarm user continuously maintains registration for the alarm site.
- J. The alarm permit may be renewed under the following conditions:
 - 1. The alarm site has no past-due fees.
 - 2. The alarm user either updates ~~his/her~~ their registration information or verifies that the current registration information is still correct.
 - 3. The appropriate annual permit fee is paid.
- K. The fee for a new alarm permit shall be collected by the alarm installation company and an alarm permit renewal fee shall be collected by the alarm administrator.
- L. Renewal information and fees are submitted to the alarm administrator (or designee) on or before the initial permit anniversary date each year.
- M. The rates for security alarm permit fees are listed in the City master fee schedule.
- N. Any fee required to be paid by an alarm user under the provisions of this Chapter shall be deemed a debt owed by the alarm user to the City until it has been paid to the City.
- O. Any fee required to be collected by an alarm business under the provisions of this Chapter shall be deemed a debt owed to the City by the business required to collect and remit such fee, if the alarm business has failed to take reasonable steps to collect the fee.
- P. Alarm users who install their own alarms shall submit a permit application and fees prior to activating the alarm system.

SECTION 4. Amendment of Chapter 8.02.030 (Alarm System Standards). Oakland Municipal Code 8.02.030 is hereby amended as set forth below (additions are show as double underline and deletions are show as ~~strikethrough~~):

8.02.030 Alarm system standards.

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to install or sell an alarm system which upon activation emits a sound similar to sirens in use on emergency vehicles or for civil defense purposes. This action shall not apply to sirens mounted inside a building which cannot be clearly heard from outside the building.
- B. Operating an audible alarm system that does not shut off (by manual or automatic operation) within 15 minutes from the time of activation is unlawful. If the alarm system has an automatic shutoff with a rearming phase, the rearming phase must be able to

distinguish between an open and a closed circuit, and if the circuit is broken the system shall not rearm.

- C. No automatic voice dialing device shall be used to initiate an alarm dispatch request.
- D. All alarm systems shall have a standby backup power supply that will automatically power the operation of the alarm system for a minimum of four hours, should any interruption occur in power to the alarm system. The transfer of power from the primary source to the backup source must occur in a manner which does not activate the alarm.
- E. Alarm businesses shall not install a device for activating duress, hold-up, or panic alarms in commercial sites that have a single action, non-recessed button.
- F. Beginning July 1, 2024, all new installations of monitored alarm systems must be verified response alarm systems.

SECTION 5. Amendment of Chapter 8.02.040 (Alarm User Responsibilities).

Oakland Municipal Code 8.02.040 is hereby amended as set forth below (additions are show as double underline and deletions are show as ~~strikethrough~~):

8.02.040 Alarm users responsibilities.

- A. Each alarm user is annually responsible for:
 - 1. Registering the alarm system by obtaining an alarm permit;
 - 2. Paying the permit fee; and
 - 3. Providing current registration information.
- B. Alarm users who operate an alarm without a permit shall be charged a ~~non-compliance remediation fee~~ civil penalty (listed in the master fee schedule.)
- C. Each alarm user is responsible for assuring that the alarm system is used properly and in accordance with the manufacturer's directions and the law. Inherent in this responsibility is:
 - 1. Assuring that all persons with access to the alarm system are properly trained on correct use of the system and are authorized to cancel accidental activations, and
 - 2. Assuring that procedures and practices are followed that minimize the risk of false alarms.
- D. Each alarm user is responsible for keeping the alarm system properly maintained and in good working order.
- E. Each alarm user is financially responsible for paying cost recovery ~~service~~ fees when police respond to false alarms from the alarm site (see Section 8.02.080).
- F. Each alarm user is responsible for providing the Police Department with access to the structure or premises, within 45 minutes of the alarm dispatch request so that the alarm may be verified. Access may be granted by the alarm user or designated responder.
- G. Failure to meet the responsibilities listed in this Section may lead to revocation of an alarm permit and loss of the privileges associated with that permit.

SECTION 6. Amendment of Chapter 8.02.050 (Alarm business responsibilities).
Oakland Municipal Code 8.02.050 is hereby amended as set forth below (additions are show as double underline and deletions are show as ~~strikethrough~~):

8.02.050 Alarm business responsibilities

The duties of the alarm business shall be to:

- A. Designate one individual as the Alarm Response Manager (ARM) for the business. The individual designated as the ARM must be knowledgeable of the provisions of this Chapter and respond to requests from the Alarm Administrator. The name, contact number, and e-mail address of the ARM shall be provided to the Alarm Administrator.
- B. Provide the alarm administrator (or designee) with an electronic data file and hard copy file with name, complete address and account number of each new alarm user in the City no later than the last day of each month.
- C. Notify the alarm administrator by the 15th day of each month of all their alarm users within the City that have discontinued their alarm service with the business in the previous month. For each discontinued alarm user that is not listed on the notification, the alarm business shall pay a fee as set forth in the master fee schedule. Fees shall be waived when the alarm business provides credible evidence that it has a valid contract with the respective alarm user, or that the alarm user discontinued service without formal termination.
- D. Comply with California licensing requirements, and maintain a valid copy of the State of California Department of Consumer Affairs alarm company and/or alarm company employee permit with the alarm administrator.
- E. Ensure that installation of all new alarm components adhere to manufacturer's installation guidelines.
- F. Install alarm systems and alarm system components appropriate for the location; be available to maintain the system in good working order, and take reasonable measures to prevent the occurrence of false alarms.
- G. Submit an alarm permit form, the correct fee and required documentation on behalf of the alarm user to the alarm administrator (or designee) within 30 days of the installation date of a new alarm system. Alarm businesses and alarm installation companies shall hold fee revenues received from customers in trust for the City.
- H. Provide alarm users with alarm ordinance and false alarm fee information, with each new installation.
- I. Provide accurate and complete instruction to the alarm user on the proper use of its alarm system. Specific emphasis shall be placed on the avoidance of false alarms. Each business that sells alarm systems, whether or not it is an alarm business as defined in this Chapter, is similarly responsible for instructing the buyer of the alarm system on the proper use of their system.

- J. Institute quality control procedures to track and prevent the occurrence of false alarms for the first 30 calendar days after installing a new alarm system.
- K. Obtain written documentation (with newly installed alarm systems) from alarm users that they have been trained to operate the new system.
- L. Provide group training to commercial users for installations, including false alarm prevention.
- M. Not sell or transfer an alarm contract during the warranty period, without transfer of the existing warranty or insuring the warranty remains in force for the warranty period.
- N. Comply with all Verified Response Alarm System requirements as set forth in this Chapter.

SECTION 7. Addition of Section 8.02.072 (Verified Response Alarm Systems). Section 8.02.072 is hereby added to the Oakland Municipal Code as follows:

8.02.072 Verified Response Alarm Systems

Beginning July 1, 2024, it shall be unlawful for an alarm business to make an alarm dispatch request based on the breach of a single major point of entry without a secondary indication that a burglary is in progress. Secondary indication may be audio or video evidence of an intrusion, ~~or~~ the tripping of a motion detector, or verbal confirmation from the alarm user or designee, in addition to the breach of a major point of entry. An alarm business who violates this section shall be subject to a \$1,000 penalty for each violation.

This section shall not apply to alarm systems installed prior to July 1, 2024, which lack secondary verification capacity, for which the users have continually maintained an active permit unless the alarm business has, ~~at any time after July 1, 2024,~~ made ~~an~~ two alarm dispatch requests for the property based on a false alarms, at any time after July 1, 2024.

SECTION 8. Amendment of Chapter 8.02.080 (Appropriating public police services for private purposes subject to cost recovery fees). Oakland Municipal Code 8.02.080 is hereby amended as set forth below (additions are show as double underline and deletions are show as ~~strikethrough~~):

Chapter 8.02.080 Appropriating public police services for private purposes subject to cost recovery fees

- A. Causing police to engage in a false alarm response constitutes an appropriation of public police services for private purposes and is subject to a cost recovery fee.
- B. The alarm user is responsible for payment of ~~his~~ their permit and cost recovery fees.
- C. When, in the opinion of the responding police officer(s), an alarm dispatch request can be reasonably associated with an actual or attempted criminal offense at the involved alarm

site, the alarm is valid and the response is considered a basic police service not subject to cost recovery fees.

1. The following actions constitute use of an alarm system that improperly appropriates police services for private purposes and are subject to cost recovery fees:
2. Activating an alarm system with the intent to report:
 - a. Suspicious circumstances;
 - b. Any non-criminal incident; or
 - c. A need for fire, medical or other non-police services; or
- D. When, in the opinion of the responding police officer(s), an alarm dispatch request can be reasonably attributed to an earthquake, hurricane, tornado or other unusually violent act of nature, a cost recovery fee shall be not assessed.
- E. When, in the opinion of the responding police officer(s), an alarm dispatch request cannot be reasonably attributed to the conditions described in Subsections C. or D. of this Section, the incident is a false alarm and the police officer response is considered an appropriation of public police services for private purposes that is subject to cost recovery.
- F. When the responding officer(s) is (are) unable to determine if an alarm is valid or false because of inaccessibility of the alarm site, the response is presumed to be a false alarm response, and is subject to cost recovery fees (see Section 8.02.010).
- G. The cost recovery fees for appropriating public police services for private purposes are listed in the City master fee schedule.
- H. Cost recovery fees are assessed based on the response requested. For example, an alarm dispatch request reporting a robbery alarm is subject to the false alarm ~~penalty~~ fee applicable to robbery false alarm responses, even if the alarm activation should properly have been reported as a burglary alarm.
- I. All fees are due and payable upon receipt of invoice.
- J. The City may establish an online Alarm User Awareness Class for the purpose of educating alarm users about the responsible use, operation, maintenance of alarm systems and false alarm reduction strategies. The class shall inform alarm users of the problems created by false alarms and instruct alarm users how to help reduce false alarms. The City may grant the option of attending an online class in lieu of paying one assessed false alarm cost recovery fee.

SECTION 9. Amendment of Chapter 8.02.090 (Appeals). Oakland Municipal Code 8.02.090 is hereby amended as set forth below (additions are show as double underline and deletions are show as ~~strikethrough~~):

Chapter 8.02.090 Cost Recovery Fee Appeals

Cost recovery fees may be appealed to the alarm appeals officer, as follows:

- A. The appeal process is initiated by the alarm user sending a letter to the alarm appeals officer requesting that the cost recovery fee be waived (an appeal conference,) specifying the reasons for the appeal, and submitting the scheduled appeal fee. This letter and appeal fee must be received by the alarm appeals officer within 30 calendar days after mailing of the initial invoice to the alarm user.
- B. Service fees may be appealed only on the grounds that the incident cited as the basis for the service fee was, in fact, not a false alarm response. The alarm user must (in ~~his~~ ~~or her~~ their letter requesting an appeal) describe detailed, credible evidence in ~~his/her~~ their possession that supports the contention that the involved incident was a valid alarm, as described in Subsections 8.02.080 C. or D.
- C. The alarm appeals officer may reject requests for appeals that are not supported by detailed, credible evidence of criminal activity or for one of the listed reasons in the City false alarm appeal guideline form by the appellant. Notice of rejection of a request for this initial appeal shall be sent to the appellant in writing within ten working days following receipt of the appeal request by the alarm appeals officer.
- D. Whenever the first appeal is denied, the alarm user may then file a second written appeal requesting an in-person hearing.
 - 1. This request must be received within 30 calendar days from the mailing of the denial of the first level of appeal.
 - 2. All hearings shall be heard by an appeals officer appointed by the Chief of Police.
 - 3. The alarm administrator shall serve as the City's representative in these hearings.
- E. The filing of a request for an appeal conference with an alarm appeals officer sets aside the pending service fee or related service suspension/revocation in appeal until the alarm appeals officer either rejects the appeal request, as described in Subsection A. of this Section, or renders a final decision.
- F. The alarm appeals officer, on receipt of a request for a hearing, shall conduct an appeal conference within 30 working days after receiving the appeal request. The alarm administrator may also contact the appellant and offer a resolution or modification of the cost recovery fees prior to the scheduled hearing.
- G. At the conference, the alarm administrator shall present evidence on the City's behalf supporting the case that the applicable cost recovery fees are based on police response to an actual false alarm. The alarm appeals officer shall consider this evidence and any information presented by any interested person(s).
 - 1. Because false alarm responses are based on the professional judgment of the responding police officer using the facts known to the officer at the time of the incident, the burden of proof in appeals is on the appellant.
 - 2. The appellant must establish with credible evidence that facts known to, but not considered by the police officer, existed at the time of the incident, that would have lead a reasonable police officer to the conclusion that the incident involved was a valid alarm, as described in Subsections 8.02.080 C. or D.

3. The alarm appeals officer shall make ~~his/her~~ their decision based on the presence of such facts and conclusions.
- H. The alarm appeals officer shall render a decision and notify the appellant and the alarm administrator thereof in writing within 20 working days after the appeal conference is held. The alarm appeals officer may:
1. Affirm,
 2. Waive (in whole or in part),
 3. Cancel, or
 4. Modify the ~~penalty~~ fees or actions that are the subject of the appeal.
- I. If the alarm appeals officer affirms or modifies the amount of a service fee due, that amount becomes immediately due and payable.
- J. Appeal decisions are reviewed and approved by the City Administrator prior to becoming official. The official decision of the alarm appeals officer is final, and no further appeals or remedies are available.

SECTION 10. Addition of Section 8.02.091 (Civil Penalty Appeals). Section 8.02.091 is hereby added to the Oakland Municipal Code as set forth below:

8.02.091 Civil Penalty Appeals. Civil Penalties assessed under this chapter may be appealed in accordance with procedures established by the City Administrator for appealing civil penalties assessed pursuant Chapter 1.08.

SECTION 11. Direction to City Administrator. The City Administrator is directed to provide an informational report to Council as soon as practicable after July 1, 2026, regarding the efficacy of the verified response alarm system requirements adopted herein, and to make a recommendation to Council regarding whether secondary verification requirements should be imposed on alarm users with alarm systems installed prior to July 1, 2024.

SECTION 12. California Environmental Quality Act Compliance. The legislation contains no provisions modifying the physical design, development, or construction of residential or nonresidential structures. Accordingly, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that it: (1) may have a significant effect on the environment and/or (2) would result in any physical changes to the environment. As a result, this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to the following CEQA Guidelines, taken together and each as a separate and independent basis: Section 15301 (existing facilities), Section 15378 (regulatory actions), Section 15060(c)(2) (no direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment), and Section 15061(b)(3) (no significant environmental impact).

SECTION 13. No Conflict with State or Local Law. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be interpreted or applied so as to create any requirement, power, or duty in conflict with any federal or state law.

SECTION 14. Correction of Errors. The City Council hereby authorizes the City Administrator or designee to make non-substantive, technical conforming changes (essentially correction of typographical and clerical errors) to this legislation prior to formal publication of the Amendments in the Oakland Municipal Code.

SECTION 15. Administrative Regulations. The City Administrator is authorized to promulgate and amend administrative regulations and forms consistent with this legislation.

SECTION 16. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the Chapter. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and each section, subsection, clause or phrase thereof irrespective of the fact that one or more other sections, subsections, clauses or phrases may be declared invalid or unconstitutional

SECTION 17. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective immediately on final adoption if it receives six or more affirmative votes; otherwise it shall become effective upon the seventh day after final adoption.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES – FIFE, GALLO, JENKINS, KALB, KAPLAN, RAMACHANDRAN, REID, AND
PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS

NOES –
ABSENT –
ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: _____
ASHA REED
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California

Date of Attestation: _____

NOTICE AND DIGEST

ORDINANCE AMENDING OAKLAND MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 8.02 (BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEMS) TO (1) REQUIRE ALL NEW ALARM INSTALLATIONS TO BE VERIFIED RESPONSE ALARM SYSTEMS; (2) PROHIBIT ALARM BUSINESSES FROM MAKING DISPATCH REQUESTS BASED ON NON-VERIFIED ALARMS; AND (3) IMPOSE CIVIL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS; AND ADOPTING CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT EXEMPTIONS

This Ordinance would require all monitored alarm systems newly installed after July 1, 2024, to have capacity to provide secondary indication that a burglary is in progress such as audio, video, or motion detection. With limited exceptions for systems installed prior to July 1, 2024, this ordinance would impose civil penalties for calling in an alarm dispatch request based on the breach of a single major point of entry without a secondary indication that a burglary is in progress.