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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to implementing an Unwanted Fire Alarm Program.

Recommendations for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Englander - Krekorian):

1. REQUEST the City Attorney to assist the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) in the preparation and presenting of an Ordinance amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code to provide for the implementation of an Unwanted Fire Alarm Program and corresponding fee schedule.
2. INSTRUCT the LAFD to procure a contractual services agreement with a third-party vendor for tracking and billing services associated with the Unwanted Fire Alarm Program.
3. INSTRUCT the LAFD to report to the Public Safety Committee within 120 days on the timeline and progress on implementing the Unwanted Fire Alarm Program that includes the status of program elements including resources and required staffing; permit fee recommendations; community notification and outreach; alarm user compliance; the appeal and adjudication process; and, any other issues or challenges experienced with the program.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The City Administrative Officer reports that the General Fund impact attributed to adoption of the above recommendations is related to the total revenue generated by the program's permit and penalty fees, net of the program's operational expenses—figures which are unknown at this time. The LAFD estimates that it currently receives notice of approximately 25,000 automatic alarms annually; of this amount, approximately 12,000 are deemed false or unwanted prior to fire companies arriving on-scene. Based upon the adoption of the unwanted fire alarm ordinance and an initial penalty fee of \$343, an estimated revenue amount of approximately \$1.72 million may be realized through payment of unwanted alarm penalty fees. Offsetting program operational expense costs are subject to contractual negotiation and subsequent staffing level determination.

Community Impact Statement: Yes

For: Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council

SUMMARY

At the meeting held on May 9, 2018, your Public Safety Committee considered a CAO report relative to implementing an Unwanted Fire Alarm Program. The CAO reports that on August 23, 2017, the Public Safety Committee instructed the CAO to report on recommendations for implementation of a false/unwanted fire alarm program under the jurisdiction of the LAFD. Subsequently, the LAFD submitted correspondence and a draft ordinance to the CAO, attached to the Council file, with details on its plans for, and progress on, the implementation of a false alarm fee and fine program. The LAFD envisions the program to be known as the Unwanted Fire Alarm Program to be consistent with terminology provided in the National Fire Protection Association NFPA-72 National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code. Based on the information provided by and discussions with the LAFD and the City Attorney, the major steps required for

implementation of an Unwanted Fire Alarm Program include a modification to the Los Angeles Municipal Code via ordinance to incorporate the characteristics of fire alarm systems, Fire Code provisions, a fee schedule and the required administrative processes. Other elements of the program include providing public outreach to educate property owners and promote enrollment in the Unwanted Fire Alarm Program and the development of a staffing and technology plan to implement and manage the program. As the Unwanted Fire Alarm Program is initiated, the LAFD will make programmatic adjustments based on metrics and initial outcomes. After an opportunity for public comment, the Committee moved to approve the recommendations presented in the CAO transmittal, as detailed above. This matter is now forwarded to the Council for its consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE



<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
ENGLANDER:	YES
O'FARRELL:	YES
BUSCAINO:	YES
RYU:	YES
RODRIGUEZ:	ABSENT

ME
5/9/18

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-