

Your **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

reports as follows:

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to false 911 calls made by individuals claiming that a robbery, hostage situation, or other serious crime is occurring, also known as "swatting."

Recommendation for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Koretz – Englander):

1. INSTRUCT the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to report to the Public Safety Committee in 30 days with recommendations for how Council can assist the Department combat false 911 "swatting" calls.
2. REQUEST the City Attorney prepare an ordinance to provide a reward to anyone who provides information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators of this specific crime, and to require the perpetrators of "swatting" incidents pay full restitution to the LAPD for all costs incurred responding to these "false alarm" incidents including rewards paid by the City of Los Angeles for information leading to the arrest and conviction of perpetrators of false 911 "swatting" calls.
3. INSTRUCT the Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) report to the Public Safety Committee with a review of comparable ordinances in other jurisdictions relative to this matter.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted. Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the CLA has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY

On April 9, 2013, Council considered Motion (Koretz – Englander) relative to false 911 calls made by individuals claiming that a robbery, hostage situation, or other serious crime is occurring, also known as "swatting." Motion states that since their inception in 1967, SWAT ("Special Weapons And Tactics") teams have been an integral part of LAPD. Using military-style weapons and specialized tactics in high-risk operations that fall outside of the capabilities of regular, uniformed police, SWAT teams are always ready to handle barricade/ hostage situations, suicide intervention, and other violent situations in heavily fortified locations where weapons are present and diversionary tactics are anticipated. The LAPD SWAT Team is known worldwide as one of the foremost police tactical units in contemporary law enforcement, and its elite members have earned hundreds of commendations and citations.

Motion goes on to state that "swatting" refers to false 911 calls being made by individuals claiming that a robbery, hostage situation, or other serious crime is occurring in order to draw a strong police response to the home of the purported victim. These individuals use sophisticated means to obscure their identities, yet at the same time bring themselves notoriety. SWAT teams have been called to the homes of various celebrities based on these prank calls to 911

reporting a violent crime in progress. During one recent week, LAPD responded to four incidents at the homes of celebrities.

Motion movers believe that "swatting" incidents pose a threat to public safety, not only because they tie up LAPD resources, but also because officers responding to these fake incidents have been injured. Motion recommends that LAPD report with recommendations for the actions needed to respond to this problem. It is also recommended that the City Attorney prepare an ordinance enabling the City to collect full restitution of the costs incurred by LAPD responding to false 911 swatting calls. Council referred Motion to the Public Safety Committee for consideration.

At its meeting held April 26, 2013, the Public Safety Committee discussed this matter with representatives of the Fifth Council District Office, LAPD, and the Los Angeles County Sheriff. Committee member expressed support for the Motion, recommending that Council approve the Motion's recommendations, as amended to state that restitution to be collected by the City shall include any rewards paid for information leading to the arrest and conviction of swatting pranksters.

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS -

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
ENGLANDER:	YES
PERRY:	ABSENT
BUSCAINO:	YES
KREKORIAN:	YES
ZINE:	YES

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