



City Hall
601 4th Avenue E.
Olympia, WA 98501
360-753-8244

City Council

Approval of an Ordinance Amending Olympia Municipal Code Chapter 4.02 Related to Police Department Fees for Security Alarm Registration and False Alarm Calls

Agenda Date: 1/11/2022
Agenda Item Number: 4.G
File Number: 22-0004

Type: ordinance **Version:** 2 **Status:** Passed

Title

Approval of an Ordinance Amending Olympia Municipal Code Chapter 4.02 Related to Police Department Fees for Security Alarm Registration and False Alarm Calls

Recommended Action

Committee Recommendation:

Not referred to a committee.

City Manager Recommendation:

Move to approve an Ordinance Amending Olympia Municipal Code Chapter 4.02 Related to Police Department Fees on second reading.

Report

Issue:

Whether to approve an Ordinance Amending Olympia Municipal Code Chapter 4.02 Related to Police Department Fees on second reading.

Staff Contact:

Rich Allen, Interim Chief of Police, Olympia Police Department - 360.753.8300

Presenter(s):

None - Consent Calendar Item.

Background and Analysis:

Background and Analysis did not change from first to second reading.

Olympia Municipal Code (OMC) Chapter 4.02 relates to fees charged by the Olympia Police Department (OPD), including the registration of security alarms and false alarm fees. Review of the false alarm program shows the following:

1. OPD responds to alarms relating to burglaries or robberies, without regard to whether the

alarm may or may not be a false alarm unrelated to criminal activity.

2. Fees for false alarms have not proven to be a reliable deterrent to false alarms within the City.
3. Fees for false alarms create economic hardship for residents and businesses within the City, further exacerbating the economic disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Based on the above, OPD recommends repealing fees for security alarm registration and false alarm calls.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

Repealing false alarm fees will reduce administrative tasks and permit OPD to redirect staff resources to other critical public safety needs.

Options:

1. Approve the Ordinance repealing false alarm fees
2. Do not approve the Ordinance. False alarm fees will continue to be imposed on Olympia residents and businesses.
3. Take no action.

Financial Impact:

OPD currently expends critical administrative support resources for the false alarm fee program. The false alarm fees required by OMC Chapter 4.02 have not resulted in a reduction in false alarm OPD response. A vendor is required to collect such fees and the City only receives a portion of the recovery. The economic disruption due to the COVID pandemic has created hardships for Olympia's residents and businesses and the false alarm program has been suspended during the pandemic, only recently being reinstated. OPD recently took steps to terminate its vendor collection contract.

Attachments:

Ordinance