



Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
Administration and Public Works Committee

From: Marty Lyons, Assistant City Manager/Treasurer

Subject: Ordinance 117-O-11, Amending Various Sections of Chapter 11 of Title 9
of the Evanston City Code Regulating False Alarm Systems

Date: December 12, 2011

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends City Council approval of Ordinance 117-O-11 which would increase City of Evanston Police and Fire-related false alarm fees. This increase was included as a revenue enhancement item for the FY 2012 Budget and will take effect January 1, 2012.

Funding Source:

N/A

Summary:

The City Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget on November 28, 2011. As part of the budget process, the City Council considered a series of revenue enhancements and expenditure reductions proposed by staff in an effort to balance the General Fund budget. The proposed ordinance would implement a 10% increase in City Police and Fire-related false alarm fees.

The City currently charges a fee for Police and Fire-related false alarms. This fee is applied when the City's emergency communication center is notified of four or more Police or Fire-related false alarms by a single user within a calendar year. The Police and Fire false alarm fee structure is as follows:

Number of False Alarms Per Year	Fee Per Alarm
0 to 3 Alarms	\$ -
4 to 10 Alarms	\$ 100.00
11 to 24 Alarms	\$ 300.00
25+ Alarms	\$ 500.00

As mentioned above, a 10% increase to the Police and Fire false alarm fee was included as a revenue enhancement item for the FY 2012 Budget. As a result of this increase, the new false alarm fee structure would be as follows:

Number of False Alarms Per Year	Proposed Fee Per Alarm
0 to 3 Alarms	\$ -
4 to 10 Alarms	\$ 110.00
11 to 24 Alarms	\$ 330.00
25+ Alarms	\$ 550.00

In addition to the proposed false alarm fee increase, staff will implement improved fee collection methods as part of the FY 2012 Budget. These improved fee collection methods include the addition of a full-time contractual Collections Coordinator position. The proposed false alarm fee increases and improved collection methods are projected to generate approximately \$20,000 in new revenue for FY 2012. A summary of recent false alarm fee revenue collections is provided below:

	False Alarm Fee History			
	<u>FY 2009-10</u>	<u>FY 2010-11</u>	<u>FY 2011*</u>	<u>FY 2012</u>
Budget	155,000	165,000	137,445	200,000
Actual	149,002	94,805	137,000	N/A

* 2011 year-end revenues are estimated

Attachments:

Ordinance 117-O-11

117-O-11

AN ORDINANCE

Amending Various Sections of Chapter 11 of Title 9 of the Evanston City Code Regulating False Alarm Systems

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EVANSTON, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS:

SECTION 1: That Section 9-11-8-1 of the Evanston City Code, 1979, as amended, is further amended by deleting that Section in its entirety and substituting in lieu thereof, the following section

9-11-8: FALSE ALARM SERVICE CHARGES AND WAIVERS

9-11-8-1: FALSE ALARM SERVICE CHARGES: When the City’s communication center is notified of a system alarm either by direct tie-in or other means that is determined to be a false alarm, the following service charges shall be assessed to the alarm user:

False Fire-Related Alarms in a Calendar Year

0 to 3.....	\$ 0.00/per alarm
4 to 10.....	\$ 110.00/per alarm
11 to 24.....	\$ 330.00/per alarm
25+.....	\$ 550.00/per alarm

False Police-Related Alarms in a Calendar Year

0 to 3.....	\$ 0.00/per alarm
4 to 10.....	\$ 110.00/per alarm
11 to 24.....	\$ 330.00/per alarm
25+.....	\$ 550.00/per alarm

After the alarm administrator has recorded three (3) fire-related or three (3) police-related alarm occurrences within a calendar year for a given alarm user, the alarm administrator shall notify the alarm user, in writing, by first class mail or hand delivery, that additional alarm occurrences will result in the imposition of service charges in

accordance with the above fee schedule. Failure to receive such notification does not waive or nullify any service charges

Any false alarm after the third occurrence each of a police-related or fire-related false alarm shall be charged at a rate of one hundred and ten dollars (\$110.00) per occurrence up to the tenth occurrence.

Any false alarm after the tenth occurrence each of a police-related or fire-related false alarm shall be charged at a rate of three hundred and thirty dollars (\$330.00) per occurrence up to the twenty-fourth occurrence.

Any false alarm after the twenty-fifth occurrence each of a police-related or fire-related false alarm shall be charged at a rate of five hundred and fifty dollars (\$550.00) per occurrence.

Such charges will be invoiced periodically as determined by the alarm administrator.

The charges for excessive false alarms shall be paid to the City Collector within sixty (60) days from the date of invoice. In the event the false alarm service charges are not paid within a sixty- (60) day period from the date of invoice, the service charges shall increase by fifty percent (50%) per alarm occurrence invoiced.

SECTION 2: That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3: The findings and recitals contained herein are declared to be prima facie evidence of the law of the City and shall be received in evidence as provided by the Illinois Compiled Statutes and the courts of the State of Illinois.

SECTION 4: That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effective as of January 1, 2012, and after its passage, approval, and publication in the manner provided by law.

Introduced: _____, 20__

Approved:

Adopted: _____, 20__

_____, 20__

Elizabeth B. Tisdahl, Mayor

Attest:

Approved as to form:

Rodney Greene, City Clerk

W. Grant Farrar, Corporation Counsel