

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Police Code – Police Emergency Alarm Ordinance]

Ordinance amending the Police Code, to 1) transfer administration of the Police Emergency Alarm Ordinance from the Department of Emergency Management to the Tax Collector, and 2) clarify license renewal and appeal procedures.

Existing Law

Article 37 of the Police Code (“the Police Emergency Alarm Ordinance”) requires companies and individuals who have emergency alarms at their homes and businesses to obtain a annual license and to meet certain operating standards, in order to reduce the number of false alarms that the Police Department must respond to each year. The Department of Emergency Management, which operates the City’s 911 system, and the Tax Collector’s Office share responsibility for administration of the Alarm Ordinance.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposal is an ordinance that would transfer the administration of the Police Emergency Alarm Ordinance from the Director of the Department of Emergency Management to the Tax Collector. The Department of Emergency Management would remain responsible for certain technical requirements of the Alarm Ordinance and for the emergency dispatch system. The proposal would also clarify the procedures for the annual renewal of alarm licenses and for appealing the imposition of a penalty fee or the revocation or suspension of a permit license.