

December 8, 2010 / For Immediate Release

New Security Alarm Bylaw

AIRDRIE, ALBERTA – On December 6, 2010, at their regular meeting, Airdrie City Council endorsed the recommendation of the Police Committee and approved the new Security Alarm Systems Bylaw, giving Airdrie RCMP and Peace Officers a tool to deal more effectively with false alarms.

“This bylaw will help out our law enforcement officers as the resource time false alarms generated from security systems in Airdrie was staggering,” says Darryl Poburan, manager of Municipal Enforcement/RCMP and Building Inspections. “The aim of the new bylaw is to help reduce the volume of false alarms and repeat offenders.”

A report presented to Police Committee in September of 2009, by the Airdrie RCMP detachment showed false alarms accounted for up to 1000 calls per year. Each call mandates the use of the RCMP’s central dispatch and a member or two to respond to the alarm; update the file; and then send to a supervisor for review. In many instances the officer(s) must wait at the residence or business pending the resident or business occupants to arrive.

A public input session took place on September 7, 2010, with community members and businesses giving feedback for the development of the new bylaw.

The new bylaw will give one free response to security alarm holders and the ability for a Peace Officer to waive any false alarms as a result of weather or extraordinary circumstances. False alarm fees are \$75 for a residential property, and \$125 for a non-residential property. Second and subsequent infractions within a twelve-month period at the same alarm site are \$150 for a residential property, and \$250 for a non-residential property. These conditions will not apply if it was determined by the Police Service that an unauthorized entry, illegal act, or other similar situation has occurred.

Non-residential fees are charged at a higher rate as a result of the additional workload required to access an alarm. Non-residential properties also are typically larger in area and require additional manpower to check the property.

Other municipalities applying similar bylaws have stated the bylaw has become a deterrent with regards to occurrences of false alarms.

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