



## Press Release



August 25, 2008

### **Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association Adopts Two Key Alarm Reduction Provisions**

The Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) Board of Directors unanimously approved resolutions adopting Enhanced Call Verification and a Model Alarm Ordinance for use by Minnesota's Chiefs of Police. MCPA is one of the first State Association of Chiefs of Police in the nation to adopt such resolutions to help manage alarms and reduce requests for dispatches.

"The use of the Model Ordinance will be of great value to Minnesota Police Chiefs in developing and/or revising alarm management programs in their respective agencies and jurisdictions," said Chief Scott Knight, Chaska Police Department and a member of MCPA's Alarm Management Committee. The ordinance includes a provision for Enhanced Call Verification, which requires the alarm companies to make a minimum of two calls before requesting law enforcement response.

The MCPA's Alarm Management Committee was tasked with the development of the ordinance. The committee is comprised of three police chiefs, three Minnesota Electronic Security and Technology Association (MNESTA) representatives and a Security Industry Alarm Coalition (SIAC) representative. Their mission is to research alarm management issues with the goal of reducing the impact false alarms have on law enforcement's limited resources.

The ordinance includes registration of alarm systems; acceptance of cancellations; an escalating fine structure; the use of new generation equipment by installers; Enhanced Call Verification; establishment of alarm awareness classes; restricting responses for failure to pay fines/user fees; and an appeals process.

According to Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association President Rob Yant, "Approving the Model Alarm Ordinance and Enhanced Call Verification Resolutions we passed a milestone for Minnesota law enforcement agencies looking to address the issue of alarm dispatches...this will allow more efficient use of communications and patrol resources."

#### **IACP Alarm Management Committee Members:**

- Harlan Johnson, Executive Director, Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association
- Scott Knight, Chief of Police, Chaska Police Department
- John Laux, Chief of Police, Bloomington Police Department
- Wendy Makousky, Minnesota Electronic Security and Technology Association; WHIRC Response
- Guy Adams, Minnesota Electronic Security and Technology Association; Heartland Security
- Tim Davis, Vice President/President Elect, Minnesota Electronic Security and Technology Association; People's Security
- Glen Mowrey, Security Industry Alarm Coalition

#### **For additional information:**

- Harlan Johnson, Executive Director, Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association, (651) 457-0677
- Tim Davis, Vice President, Minnesota Electronic Security and Technology, (800) 735-1440
- Wendy Makousky, WHIRC Response, (763) 477-3144
- Glen Mowrey, Security Industry Alarm Coalition, (704) 534-1166

