



**Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association  
And  
Minnesota Electronic Security and Technology Association**



**September 8, 2008**

**Request for Support on Alarm Response Measure**

Law Enforcement Executives and Alarm Dealers:

With the additional workload created by the events since 9/11 and in support of Homeland Security and Community Oriented Policing law enforcement resources continue to be in high demand. Alarm systems provide a significant benefit to consumers and law enforcement in deterring and detecting criminal activity. With the increased workload that law enforcement experiences, the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association's (MCPA) Alarm Management Committee developed a Model Alarm Ordinance based on the National Burglar and Fire Alarm Association's (NBFAA) Ordinance, as posted on the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) website. The committee works on alarm management issues with the goal of reducing the impact false alarms have on law enforcement's limited resources. The Committee presented the Ordinance to the MCPA Board of Directors at its January 17, 2008 Meeting for adoption by Resolution as the Model Alarm Ordinance for Minnesota Police Chiefs. The Resolution passed unanimously and encourages Police Chiefs to use the Ordinance in developing and/or revising alarm management programs in their respective agencies and jurisdictions. 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; establishing of alarm awareness classes; restricting responses for failure to pay fines/user fees; and an appeals process. This ordinance is fully supported by the Minnesota Electronic Security and Technology Association (MNESTA) and the Security Industry Alarm Coalition (SIAC).

In addition to the Model Ordinance, an Enhanced Call Verification (ECV) Resolution was unanimously passed by both the MCPA's and MNESTA's Board of Directors. The Resolution was based on research findings that employing ECV will significantly reduce alarm dispatch requests across Minnesota. Simply stated, when an alarm monitoring center makes a second or third call to a back-up number or a cellular phone (prior to calling police) there is a very high probability that law resources will not be needed. In fact, recent statistics indicate that alarm calls for service will be reduced by 50% or more. The Resolution calls for all citizens, alarm dealers, and law enforcement to support the practice of Enhanced Call Verification.

We firmly believe that each of you recognizes the importance of properly utilizing our law enforcement resources and we are asking each responsible party to support this effort. Many national alarm companies and local alarm dealers are already asking their customers for voluntary support of this new measure. We highly recommend that this proven practice be incorporated into local ordinances and/or law enforcement agency policies. The Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association's Alarm Management Committee is available to assist you in drafting language for your ordinance or policy, please feel free to contact the MCPA Office at 651-457-0677.

Working together we can better utilize our valuable law enforcement resources.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Rob Yant, President  
MCPA

Robert A. Gibson, President  
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