

## ***PROPOSED CHANGES TO LINCOLN'S ALARM ORDINANCE***

- Changes the definition of "Alarm User" to mean a person or company which uses or is in control of an alarm system. The purpose of this change is to clarify that if a landlord provides an alarm system as a utility to a number of tenants in a single building, the individual tenant will be responsible for getting a permit and for having an excessive number of false alarms.
- Establishes a requirement that alarm businesses use an "enhanced verification" system. That means that before the alarm business calls in an alarm to the 911 center, it must attempt to call at least two contact numbers given by the alarm user (instead of just one). It is common for almost every home and business to have more than one contact number. By making an extra call before calling in a possible false alarm, the alarm business will greatly decrease the number of false alarms since the alarm user will often be able to confirm that it is a false alarm.
- Changes the permit term from a two year period run on a calendar basis to an annual permit which runs for 12 months from the date of the original permit. The annual term will mean that the City will have a more accurate record of where alarms are located. The change from a calendar basis to a 12 month period will increase the fairness in that every permit will be good for 12 months regardless of when the permit is issued.
- Alarm business permits will be \$50 for an annual permit rather than \$100 for a two year permit.
- Commercial alarm user permit fees will be \$40 for one year rather than \$100 for two years if submitted directly and \$70 for two years if submitted through the alarm business.
- Residential alarm user permit fees will be \$25 for one year rather than \$60 for two years if submitted directly and \$40 for two years if submitted through the alarm business.
- Due to the change of the permit period from 2 years to 1 year, the false alarm fee schedule was changed to \$100.00 for each false alarm after the first 3 in a one year period, instead of \$100 after the first 6 alarms in a two year period and a \$250 fee for each false alarm after 8 in a one year period instead of \$250 for each false alarm after 15 in a two year period.
- Users and businesses will have thirty days rather than ten days in which to file appeals of assessment of fees.
- The appeal board will meet on a monthly basis rather than on an ad hoc basis.
- The criminal penalty for having an alarm business or an alarm system without a permit has been removed and there is now a civil fine of \$100 for every false alarm when the alarm system or the alarm business is not registered.