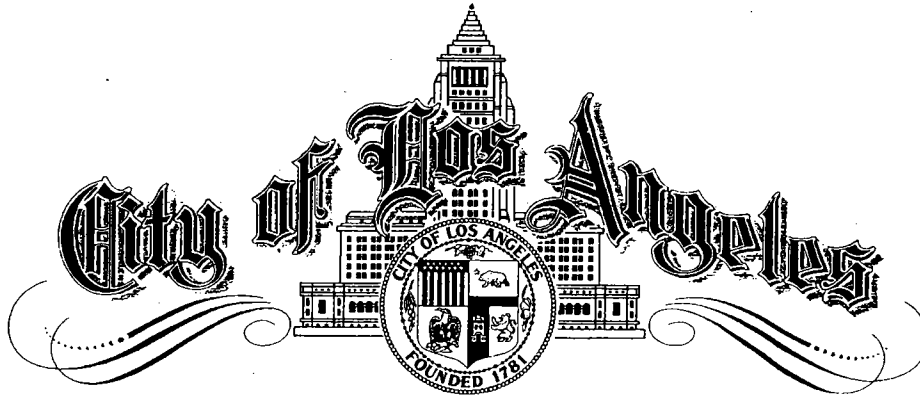


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JANICE HAHN
Councilwoman
Fifteenth District

February 19, 2003

Dear Members of the Burglar Alarm Policy Task Force,

The Burglar Alarm Policy Task Force was established by the City Council to address the concern that the Los Angeles Police Commission adopted a verified alarm response policy without seeking the input of the community, particularly the City's network of neighborhood councils.

Quite a bit of press, community outcry and public debate has occurred regarding this policy, and City Council answered by establishing this task force to further explore a change in the alarm response policy by the LAPD. You will, no doubt, hear extensive testimony and receive various data during the next several months. And your recommendations will be seriously considered in the formulation of the response policy, both by the members of the City Council and by the Police Commission. This task force will be watched carefully by the people of Los Angeles, so I encourage you to act swiftly and thoroughly.

There are numerous facets and issues that will arise when you begin to examine the burglar alarm policy in Los Angeles. I encourage you to look closely at all of the data. Here are some of the issues in particular that I would like you to address:

- How are false alarms in the City of Los Angeles determined to be false? Can we be sure that someone had not tried to break in and then run away?
- How are chronic offenders dealt with and communicated with? How should chronic offenders be dealt with in the future?
- How many false alarms are there in the City and where are they occurring?
- How many false alarms are there in our City facilities?
- How many Angelenos have alarm systems in the City?
- What do other large cities do to combat high numbers of false alarms (fines, permits, etc.)?

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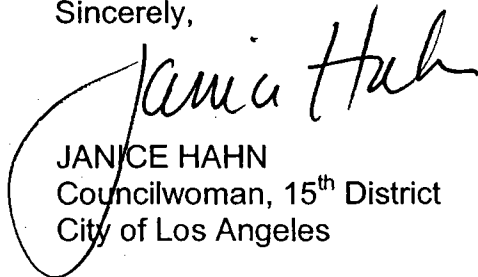
Members of the Burglar Alarm Policy Task Force,
February 19, 2002
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- How is the verified response system working in other cities and how do these cities compare to Los Angeles?
- How will the verified response system effect LAPD deployments citywide?
- What type of education (by alarm companies and/or the LAPD) is offered to alarm owners?
- Will increasing the fines for false alarms help to reduce the number of false alarms in LA?
- What can be done to ensure that all alarm owners have police permits?
- How can alarm companies be more accountable and assist in significantly lowering the number of false alarms in Los Angeles?
- How can we effectively cut down on the number of false alarms in the City without leaving the people of this City, particularly our women and seniors, feeling vulnerable?

I look forward to hearing the recommendations of the task force in 60 days when you report back to my Education & Neighborhoods Committee. I am confident that you will have many creative solutions. As I have said all along, together, surely we can solve the problem of false alarm calls in Los Angeles, while still providing security to our residents.

Thank you for your commitment to the people of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,



JANICE HAHN
Councilwoman, 15th District
City of Los Angeles

JH:cc