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February 20, 2003

Members of the Burglar Alarm Task Force
c/o The Chief Legislative Analyst
200 N. Spring Street, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Members:

I want to thank you for your participation on the Burglar Alarm Task Force. I asked the City Council to establish this Task Force because I believe the public must be part of the policy making process.

Over the last several weeks I have listened to many concerned citizens who, like you, have a strong interest in the Police Commission's proposed policy. Based on these discussions, I would ask that you give consideration to the following options in your review of the "verified response policy" currently under consideration. These include:

- Increasing false alarm fees and/or requiring alarm companies to absorb the cost of deployment for false alarms
- Establishing a system of alarm franchises or LAPD certification that would be awarded to companies that dramatically reduce false alarms and maintain a false alarm rate below a certain threshold. This would allow customers to hold alarm companies accountable and create a market for companies that are able to control false alarms.
- Developing a false alarm threshold that would trigger the "verified response policy." For example, after three false alarms the LAPD might institute the "verified response policy" for that particular alarm owner.
- Finding ways to compensate the LAPD for responding to false alarms

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR: HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
VICE CHAIR: AUDITS AND GOVERNMENTAL EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE
MEMBER: PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



While I agree with Chief Bratton and the Police Commission's intent to cut down on false alarms, I believe that the Task Force can and should develop creative alternatives to the "verified response policy" to better serve our public.

I want to thank you again for your invaluable service and I look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Greuel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, stylized 'W'.

Councilmember Wendy Greuel
Council District 2