



# City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
53202

## Meeting Minutes PRIVATE ALARM SYSTEMS TASK FORCE

*ALD. ROBERT PUENTE, CHAIR*

*Ald. Willie L. Hines, Jr.; Ann McCarthy, Richard Pfaff, Dave Stanosz, Raymond Statis, and Christopher Utter*

*Staff Assistant: Linda Elmer, 286-2232, Fax: 286-3456,  
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*Legislative Liaison: Richard Withers, 286-8532,  
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Thursday, July 8, 2010

10:00 AM

Room 301-A, City Hall

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*Meeting convened: 10:01 A.M.*

*Ed Ehrlich present for the City Attorney's Office.*

**Present** 5 - Puente, Pfaff, Statis, Utter and McCarthy

**Excused** 2 - Hines Jr. and Stanosz

**1. Review and approval of the minutes of the June 22nd meeting.**

*Ray Statis moved, second by Ms. McCarthy, for approval of the minutes. There were no objections.*

**2. Input from the public relating to the recommendations of the Task Force contained in Common Council File 091420.**

*Atty. Brian Randall, Fiebert, Finerty and St. John, present to testify.*

*Ald. Puente said that the final report will be submitted to Public Safety for action at its July 15th meeting, as well as the ordinance relating to electrical licensing. The draft ordinance relating to all other recommendations will be introduced for committee/Council action at a later date. The proposed ordinances will be distributed to members once it has been drafted. Atty. Randall had a question about the draft electrical code as to whether the specific text that has a "?" mark in the code section would be included in chapter 105 or chapter 222. He would prefer that it be in ch. 105, rather than ch. 222.*

*Richard Paur, Dept. of Neighborhood Services (DNS), said he would prefer that the text be in ch. 222 as that is the text that the department controls. Atty. Randall would ask that a reference be made to that section so companies are aware this text exists. Atty. Ehrlich noted that this is a reasonable suggestion.*

*Mr. Utter would like a change in the LF license, 3rd line to include the words "or equivalent" to the NCIT 2 license. The Department of Neighborhood Services was*

*supportive of the change.*

**3. Discussion relating to service of citations by the Milwaukee Police Department.**

*Captain Andra Williams, Milwaukee Police Department, present for this issue. The Police Department will add funds for out-of-area service as part of its 2011 budget.*

**4. Discussion relating to first responders.**

*Mr. Withers was going to research training standards of first responders for banks/businesses. This will be discussed at the next meeting.*

**5. Discussion relating to city implementation of the recommendations and ordinance.**

*Mr. Utter noted that only the key provisions, not the entire contract, should be in a font not smaller than 10 point. The city will produce an online brochure, which companies must provide to all customers at the time of sale. Applications shall include more contact information and any reference to "plan of operation" shall be stricken.*

*On top of page 7, the photograph should be submitted with a true and correct electronic copy of the ID issued to the salesperson.*

*On page 5, second paragraph, strike the bulk of the text, but keep the fact that no recommendation was done.*

*Mr. Pfaff recommended reformatting the report so it's clear as to what the recommendations are.*

*The city will license the monitoring companies and regulate first responders with all responders being security personnel licensed by the state.*

*On page 6, under Sales of Alarm Systems, there is going to be a separate and distinct license for the sales aspects for each company. This text needs to be added on to both the report and the draft ordinance. According to Mr. Pfaff, this should be one of the top 5 recommendations.*

*On page 7, the text should read, registration of sales personnel, not merely listing them.*

*Mr. Pfaff also said that the creation of a city brochure or pamphlet is also one of the top 5 recommendations. This recommendation should be made as part of a separate bullet point.*

*On page 7, under Alarm System Installations, when permits are pulled, information needs to be collected as to who is pulling the permit and verifying that the company is a licensed company. Mr. Pfaff said that at the last meeting he thought DNS would request information on the alarm monitoring company and the first responders when a permit is pulled to install a system. Mr. Paur said that his department could verify via the License Division if a non-licensed company attempts to pull a permit. If the company is not licensed, DNS would not issue a permit to install the alarm system. Mr. Utter noted that applications are processed online immediately and there is no*

real opportunity for DNS to stop the permit. Mr. Paur noted that the database does check and if a license number for the alarm company is not included, the permit could be stopped. Inspector Hoerig suggested having a drop-down box of licensed vendors and if that vendor is not listed, then the permit is stopped. The Task Force supported creating this system. Mr. Paur will report back at the next meeting if this recommendation is feasible for the department.

On page 8, under 4, 3rd bullet point, the recommendations mention enhanced penalties for multiple alarms. Mr. Pfaff would like to know if enhanced penalties exist solely for false alarms or should it be included for failing to respond within a timely manner or for being unlicensed. This will be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. Pfaff sees this as another key recommendation of the Task Force.

Mr. Pfaff said that local and state licensing of private first responders will be initiated. That recommendation is missing.

Mr. Pfaff said that 30-minute response should be its own requirement rather than just defined under "prompt service."

Mr. Pfaff also said that missing are:

1. The Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) will provide in its budget to cover service (another key recommendation)
2. Acceptance of voluntary service should also be listed.
3. More timely communication between the police department and the alarm companies so that weekly or daily contact is made versus the current monthly contacts so that citations/complaints do not build up until the company is made aware of them.

Ms. McCarthy would like changes from the police department included as part of the recommendations and that this language should note that changes in technology should be addressed in the ordinance.

On page 6, MPD does NOT encourage customers to check their own alarms; they support having companies that have their own security use their services. Ald. Puente requested that staff research as to why this text is in the recommendations. On page 6, In paragraph 3, the ordinance should prohibit or stop multiple trip calls (not just limit them - prohibit them). Inspector Hoerig noted that this could be changed through a Standard Operating Procedure in the police department. MPD also wanted to include video monitoring, not video verification (so change verification to monitoring).

**6. Discussion and possible approval of the final report of the Task Force.**

*This item was included in the discussion under item 5.*

**7. Set next meeting date and agenda, if needed.**

*Tuesday, July 13th at 10 a.m.*

Meeting adjourned: 11:35 A.M.  
Linda M. Elmer  
Staff Assistant

