



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

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**Legislative Liaison: Richard Withers, 286-8532,
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Tuesday, June 22, 2010

10:30 AM

Room 301-B, City Hall

Meeting convened: 10:41 A.M.

Ed Ehrlich present for the City Attorney's Office. Alex Runner present for Pres. Hines.

Present 6 - Puente, Hines Jr., Pfaff, Statis, Utter and McCarthy

Excused 1 - Stanosz

1. Review and approval of the minutes of the June 2nd meeting

Ms. McCarthy moved, seconded by Mr. Runner, for approval of the minutes. There were no objections.

2. Regulation and licensing of private first responders

Richard Withers, Legislative Reference Bureau, amended the draft originally provided to members and the most recent draft was provided at the table and is attached as file 091420.

James Mankowski, with JBM Patrol and Protection, came to the table to speak on the first responder's service his company provides. His company does provide training relating to non-contamination of a crime scene and to look for suspicious activity. He only employs individuals who have completed police recruit class, which is a two-year degree. The company cars have a GPS system, so employees can be tracked in terms of arrival time. His company employs 175, but of those employees, only 15 respond to alarms. His employees are armed, wear uniforms and respond in marked cars. His average response time is 16-17 minutes and employees respond to 800-1200 alarms per month. Mr. Pfaff questioned Mr. Mankowski about regulations of first responders, whether they are armed or unarmed. All companies are licensed by the state, as well as the individual responders.

Mr. Pfaff recommended that a local license be held by the company, as well as a state license (and part of the city's license application should require the state license number of the individual). Detective Craig Ellis, financial crimes, said that in March

companies typically hire college students to target seniors for burglar alarm installations and then, in December, the clients are billed \$3,000 for the service. Mr. Ellis supported having legitimate alarm companies contact the city if they see or hear of new companies coming in to the city to verify that they are legitimate companies. The state does have an online database which would list licensed guards, as well as problems with specific guards. Mr. Ellis thinks there are 300-400 individuals who are not licensed or not in uniform acting as security guards. He would recommend a local license so there is not a 10-day turnaround time, which the state currently has, resulting in unlicensed individuals working.

Mr. Pfaff recommended that the private first responder companies be licensed by the city, with the requirement that individual guards be licensed through the state. Deputy Inspector Hoerig also noted the police dept. would need to do some research as to how much of a workload this would create for the department, if individuals, rather than companies, were licensed. The Task Force supported having the requirement that any individuals who respond to alarms be licensed by the state. A penalty will also be created for failure to respond within 30 minutes to an alarm.

The Task Force voted that private companies that have their own security service must be licensed as private first responders and the security guards must be licensed by the state. The Task Force then reconsidered this issue. The Task Force then supported having the company that hires the guards be licensed if the primary responsibility of the guards is to monitor alarms. The Task Force wants individuals who are on-site, such as loss prevention individuals, to be able to call in an alarm as first responders. Mr. Withers will research the licensing requirements of loss-prevention staff.

3. Registration of alarm system users

Mr. Withers said that the Dept. of Neighborhood Services has proposed 3 new licenses, which are included as part of the draft. Information from these permits could be used by other city departments, although the License Division would not need this information if licenses are not issued.

Ms. McCarthy said that it would be labor-intensive to collect end-user data. Robert Radmer, Electrical Inspector with the Dept. of Neighborhood Services, said that the department has broad data on permits taken out for electrical work at an address, but it is anticipated that in the future the data will delineate more clearly what specific electrical work was done. Deputy Inspector Mary Hoerig said that currently the Police and Neighborhood Services cannot transfer data, but it is hoped that it can be done in the future. Mr. Utter was concerned that the electrical training was specific to NTS, rather than NTS or equivalent, which is listed for some licenses, but not for others. The task force supported Mr. Utter's recommendation and that change will be made.

For the next meeting, Mr. Pfaff will provide information on how the License Division will be administering the changes proposed in the draft ordinance. He is unclear what problem will be solved if the city knows who the end-users are. Mr. Utter thinks that accountability for false alarms, most of which are caused by end users, should be traceable as to who the end user is and the city can then hold the end user accountable. Deputy Inspector Hoerig noted that the city does have the chronic nuisance ordinance and can enforce abuse of police services in this manner. Tracking the end user, at this point is problematic, per Deputy Inspector Hoerig, as this data would need to be entered by hand. Mr. Runner noted that the industry may have an issue with abusers, but that is not a matter before this body. Atty. Randall recommended verifying that companies that pull electrical permits are licensed to

work in the city. Mr. Statis believes that unlicensed companies will not pull permits and, if caught, severe penalties should be imposed. Mr. Radmer thinks that the licensed companies will monitor work being contracted out and will file complaints against unlicensed companies.

For low-voltage burglar alarm installations (LB licenses), the information will be added to the Dept. of Neighborhood Service's permit relating to which company is monitoring that alarm and the police can see this if the permit is obtained through the e-permit system. Mr. Withers will amend the LB license to include information on who the alarm is being installed for.

4. Discussion relating to the draft proposed ordinance.

This item was discussed as part of the earlier items specific to each issue, but Mr. Utter also had other issues with the draft:

- 1. Amend the training requirement so that salespeople can't work alone without adequate training.*
- 2. Incorporate the text from the June 2nd meeting from the police dept. as well as the suggestions from Mr. Utter in section 5-c-1 on pages 5-6; and make it more user friendly (Mr. Withers, Mr. Utter and Ms. McCarthy will all review this section).*

He also noted that there are items in the report that didn't make it into the ordinance:

The testing period mentioned on page 5. The Task Force chose not to include this as part of the ordinance.

Font requirements for the contracts (length of the contract, price). Mr. Utter will provide copies of contracts to Mr. Withers for inclusion as part of the ordinance.

The License Division, in conjunction with the police department, will create a brochure. Due to time constraints, this brochure will probably be created after Council passage of these changes.

Mr. Utter said that he has contact information for APX Security which the police and politicians can use to file grievances with the company. He will provide the information to Ms. Elmer, who will forward it to members.

5. Set next meeting dates and agendas.

July 8th at 10 a.m. This meeting will also be a public hearing.

*Meeting adjourned: 1:23 P.M.
Linda M. Elmer
Staff Assistant*