

Division of Administrative & Support Services

Office of the Commander

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council

FROM: Captain Arnold Freeman

THROUGH: Chief Thomas Kelly

SUBJECT: Apache Junction City Code, Vol. I, Chapter 4 and Chapter 16 updates

DATE: September 19, 2016

Honorable Mayor and City Council:

Staff has identified several areas of Apache Junction City Code, Vol. I, Chapter 4: Fees and Chapter 16: Security Alarm Systems that need updating.

The more significant new changes are as follows:

- 1) Increase alarm user permit fee from \$10 for all users to \$15 for residential users and to \$25 for commercial users.
- 2) Reduce the number of allowable false alarms annually for both residential and commercial users from 5 false alarms to the following:
 - Residential users: 2 false alarms annually after which a \$50 fee will be assessed; each subsequent alarm will be assessed a fee in \$50 increments.
 - Commercial users: 1 false alarm annually after which a \$50 fee will be assessed; each subsequent alarm will be assessed a fee in \$50 increments.
 - Commercial users: 1 false panic alarm annually after which a \$100 fee will be assessed; each subsequent alarm will be assessed a fee in \$100 increments.
 - Any non-registered user will be assessed a \$100 administrative penalty for the first false alarm and a \$200 administrative penalty for the second false alarm with additional criminal monetary penalties for subsequent false alarms.

The following will be the positive consequences of the proposed amendments:

- 1) Reduce the numbers of false alarms received from businesses and residences.
- 2) Reduce officer safety complacency as a result of recurring false alarms.
- 3) Encourage residents and business owners to register their alarm systems within the city.
- 4) Update the alarm permit program and better align it with surrounding jurisdictions.
- 5) Provide an improved response to actual alarms for burglaries and robberies.
- 6) Enhance prioritization in calls for service.

Staff requests the amendments to be in effect no earlier than January 1, 2017 to allow time for residents and businesses to prepare for the changes.