
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM2.1	ACTION			Ward: All
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Policy Regarding False Fire Alarms - by Councillor Gloria Lindsay Luby, seconded by Councillor John Parker

Notice of this Motion has been given.

This Motion is subject to referral to the Licensing and Standards Committee. A two thirds vote is required to waive referral.

Recommendations

Councillor Gloria Lindsay Luby, seconded by Councillor John Parker, recommends that:

1. City Council request the City Clerk to give notice that Toronto City Council intends to amend Appendix B - Schedule 1, Fire Services of Chapter 441, Fees, of the Toronto Municipal Code to charge fees for the City's response to the second and subsequent Nuisance False Alarm per municipal address per 12 month period.
2. City Council direct the Licensing and Standards Committee to consider this matter at its January 21, 2010 meeting.
3. City Council request Toronto Fire Services to work with and educate owners and residents of all condominiums, apartments, single-family homes and businesses to prevent false fire alarms.

Summary

In Spring 2010, on the advice of the Fire Chief, City Council amended the False Fire Alarms Policy so that residents would no longer be given an exemption to false fire alarm fees.

Prior to that time, residents were given one exemption per year. This worked well because it gave fire alarm subscribers a warning that they must get their fire alarm in good working order to prevent future false fire alarms.

Removing the exemption has caused considerable harm to residents, especially to single family homes where a false fire alarm will cost them over \$1,000. As a result, homeowners are deactivating their alarms. This action could put their property and the properties of the entire neighbourhood at risk.

(Submitted to City Council on December 16, 2010 as MM2.1)