



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-1798, **Agenda Item #:** 53.

4/22/2021

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 4-2 (Alarm Permits) to transfer the authority for regulating alarm permits and alarm systems from the Austin Police Department to the Development Services Department.

Lead Department

Management Services.

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

August 12, 2020 - City Council approved Ordinance No. 20200812-001, the City's Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget.

June 11, 2020 - City Council approved Resolution No. 20200611-096, which directed the City Manager to explore options for reallocating positions and roles currently assigned to the Austin Police Department.

For More Information:

Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager, Management Services, (512) 974-2222.

Additional Backup Information:

On June 11, 2020, the City Council directed the City Manager to explore options for reallocating positions and roles currently assigned to the Austin Police Department (APD). Pursuant to that direction and in alignment with the Reimagining Public Safety decoupling framework, this ordinance will amend the City Code Chapter 4-2 to transfer the responsibilities of the APD Alarm Administration Unit to the Development Services Department (DSD). Six (6) full-time equivalent positions will move from APD to DSD.

The City requires an alarm permit for each residential or commercial site that operates an alarm system. The Alarm Administration Unit issues these permits on an annual basis and invoices permit holders and non-permit holders for service fees associated with police response to false burglar alarm calls as authorized by City ordinance.

The purpose of the Alarm Administration Unit is to improve public safety through advocating for the reduction of false alarms by administering the alarm ordinance, providing educational resources and community outreach initiatives and facilitating the establishment of partnerships between law enforcement, the alarm industry and the citizens of Austin to reduce false alarm calls.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety.