

1 CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

2 RESOLUTION NO. 2008-92

3 INTRODUCED BY:

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10 A RESOLUTION

11 ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO RESEARCH, STUDY AND RECOMMEND  
12 ALTERNATIVES TO THE CITY'S ALARM SYSTEM ORDINANCE, ARTICLE 20-25  
13 SFCC 1987; AND TO RECOMMEND A PROPOSED ORDINANCE THAT WOULD  
14 RESULT IN FALSE ALARM REDUCTION.

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Fe currently has an Alarm System Ordinance  
17 ("Ordinance"), Article 20-25 SFCC 1987, that is currently not uniformly being enforced and is  
18 administratively burdensome; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the Ordinance requires every person who operates an alarm system to  
20 obtain a permit from the City and renew such permit on an annual basis; and

21 **WHEREAS**, in 2007, there were 1,450 permits issued to alarm owners; and

22 **WHEREAS**, City of Santa Fe police officers respond to false alarms on a daily basis;

23 and

24 **WHEREAS**, in 2007 the City received 7,624 alarm calls of which 7,567 (or greater than  
25 99%) of those calls turned out to be false alarms; and

1           **WHEREAS**, for each alarm call received, two officers are dispatched to the address at  
2 which the alarm sounded and spend approximately one hour investigating such alarm; and

3           **WHEREAS**, the Governing Body desires to amend the Ordinance to make the alarm  
4 monitoring company or the consumer, if there is not an alarm monitoring company, accountable  
5 for false alarms; and

6           **WHEREAS**, on September 16, 2008, the Public Safety Committee considered a false  
7 alarm bill that, if adopted, would assess a fee on an alarm monitoring company or property owner  
8 in the event of a false alarm; and

9           **WHEREAS**, there was testimony heard regarding the proposed bill at the Public Safety  
10 Committee meeting and many concerns were addressed by business owners who operate alarm  
11 companies and their representatives; and

12           **WHEREAS**, the Public Safety Committee members voted unanimously to recommend to  
13 the Governing Body that a task force be established to research, study and recommend  
14 alternatives to the City's false alarm ordinance.

15           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY**  
16 **OF THE CITY OF SANTA FE** that the False Alarms Task Force is established.

17           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that:

18           Section 1.       NAME. False Alarms Task Force.

19           Section 2.       PURPOSE. Establishing a Task Force to research, study and recommend  
20 alternatives to the City's Alarm System Ordinance, Article 20-25 SFCC 1987; and to recommend  
21 a proposed ordinance that would result in significant false alarm reduction with a goal of zero  
22 false alarms.

23           Section 3.       DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

24           A.       The Task Force shall seek and obtain public participation from alarm company  
25 owners, law enforcement, other governmental entities, as well as from the general public

1 regarding proposed solutions to false alarms.

2 B. The Task Force shall seek advice from alarm company owners and operators  
3 about educating their customers regarding the operation of alarm systems and false alarm  
4 prevention and how alarm companies or property owners should be held accountable for false  
5 alarms.

6 C. The Task Force shall report back to the Governing Body within three months  
7 after appointment of the membership to provide solutions to the high number of alarms as well as  
8 a proposed ordinance that would result in significant false alarm reduction. Such report shall be  
9 given no later than March 31, 2009.

10 Section 4. MEMBERSHIP; OFFICERS.

11 A. The task force shall consist of eight members, appointed by the mayor with the  
12 approval of the city council. The membership shall consist of one city councilor who shall serve  
13 as the chairperson of the task force; two members who currently own and operate an alarm  
14 company within the municipal boundaries of the city of Santa Fe; two members from the city  
15 Police Department; and three members from the general public who reside in the municipal  
16 boundaries of the city of Santa Fe, of which one owns an alarm system and two do not own an  
17 alarm system. The members shall be persons who have expressed an interest in serving on the  
18 task force who represent an interest in reducing false alarms.

19 B. The chairperson shall designate the vice chairperson.

20 C. The chairperson shall appoint sub-committees and sub-committee chairpersons as  
21 needed.

22 Section 5. TERMS. Members shall be appointed for terms of three months, at  
23 which time the work of the task force should be complete. The governing body, at its discretion  
24 may amend this resolution so that the work of the task force may continue.

25 Section 6. MEETINGS. A quorum shall be at least four members. The task force

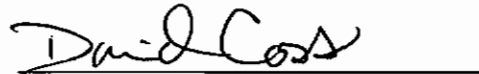
1 shall meet at least twice per month and shall conduct all meetings in accordance with adopted city  
2 policy and procedures.

3 Section 7. STAFF. The Santa Fe police chief shall appoint an employee from the  
4 Police Department to serve as the primary liaison to the task force. Depending upon the issue,  
5 other city staff may also be required to assist the task force.

6 PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 29<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2008.

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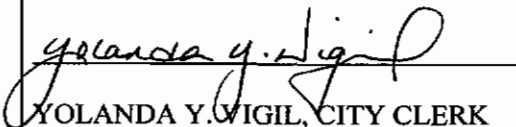
DAVID COSS, MAYOR

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11 ATTEST:

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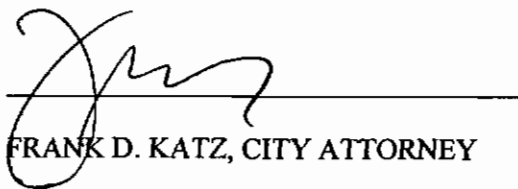
  
YOLANDA Y. WIGIL, CITY CLERK

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15 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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FRANK D. KATZ, CITY ATTORNEY

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*mdb/jep&mdb/cao/Resolutions2008/False Alarms Task Force*