



## CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

**Meeting Date:** December 4, 2018

**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**From:** B. Francis, City Manager

**Subject:** Ordinance 18-14 False Alarm Ordinance

**Background:** At the October 30, 2018 Council Meeting, the City Staff requested the City Council to consider a false alarm ordinance. The ordinance requires all active alarm systems to be registered with the Police Department. After suggesting a change in the false alarm penalties the ordinance can be read for the first time.

A false alarm occurs when the alarm system is activated and the Belle Isle Police Department responds, but there is no evidence of unauthorized entry, criminal activity (or reasonable threat of criminal activity) or any other emergency that would require the services of the Police Department. This includes signals activated by accident, negligence, mechanical failure, electrical failure, signals activated intentionally in non-emergency situations and signals for which the actual cause of activation is unknown. An alarm is considered **false** if responding personnel follow normal operating procedures and find no evidence of an unauthorized entry, criminal activity (or reasonable threat of), or other emergency.

BIPD officers must take each and every alarm call seriously. In nearly every case, however, our officers arrive to discover a false alarm was caused by accident or error. This new program will help to ensure that officers are available to patrol our neighborhoods and respond to emergencies.

If the Council decides to move forward with this ordinance, the City will develop the process and brochures necessary to inform the residents.

**Staff Recommendation:** Read Ordinance 18-14 for the first time and move the ordinance forward for a second reading.

**Suggested Motion:** I move that we move Ordinance 18-14 to a second reading and adoption at the next Council Meeting.

**Alternatives:** Do not develop a false alarm program

**Fiscal Impact:** TBD

**Attachments:** Draft Ordinance