ASSESSING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MODEL ALARM ORDINANCE: A CASE STUDY OF FOUR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Full Report may be downloaded from: https:/siacinc.org/academic-studies/

Project Overview

- A small percentage of alarm users contribute to an excessive misuse of patrol resources.

- Recent data analysis suggests agencies with well-managed alarm management programs maintain a high number of permitted alarm systems, but the majority of alarm owners (often more than 90%) do not require a law enforcement response annually.

- Data is available to determine whether law enforcement service demand reductions are evident and sustained over time, and to consider the manpower and cost savings within agencies that implement and enforce model alarm ordinance protocols.

Study Goals and Methodology

- Determine whether long-term ongoing alarm dispatch reduction programs, particularly those relying on the model ordinance program, are sustainable and cost-effective; and
- Determine whether the SIAC national model alarm ordinance is reducing dispatches in cites/counties where protocols are effectively implemented and routinely enforced.
- A case study approach was used to examine the effectiveness of the model ordinance in two large cities, one small city, and one large county.

Important Study Findings and Conclusions

1. Across four different agencies, population increases tended to drive corresponding increases in alarm permit adoptions.
2. Increases in alarm permits seem to be effectively managed over time, perhaps suggesting that agencies also grow and learn over time, or perhaps decide to devote more resources to model ordinance enforcement over time.
3. Agencies that have had the model ordinance in place for longer periods of time tend to demonstrate better outcomes.
4. Most alarm users do not unnecessarily consume significant law enforcement resources.
5. A small proportion were high rate users. However, the proportion of high rate users is lower within agencies with more experience with the model ordinance, and the proportion is dropping over time among agencies with less time and experience.

SIAC
Security Industry Alarm Coalition