



City of Arts & Innovation

Police Department

Larry Gonzalez

Chief of Police

POLICE BULLETIN

Outside Video Alarm Systems

DATE: February 26, 2015

SUMMARY: This is an informational bulletin regarding outside video alarm systems. The use and installation of outside alarms has led to an increase in alarm responses. The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify what type of triggered events will be considered a “false alarm” in regards to City of Riverside Security Alarm Ordinance No. 6978.

Per Riverside Municipal Code (RMC) section 5.58.020 a “False Alarm” means the activation of an alarm resulting from human error, a system malfunction, improper installation of the Alarm System, or design deficiencies causing an Alarm Business or reporting party to summon the police when no evidence of a criminal offense or attempted criminal offense is found.

The simple presence of a person at the premises does not constitute probable cause to believe a crime is in progress or has been committed. Verification methods are defined in RMC 5.58.050(G).

It is very important a responsible party be available at all times for contact or respond to the location if requested. If an officer makes contact with the person who triggered the alarm they will need to verify with the responsible party that person is not allowed to be on the property.

If the property is behind a locked fence access for the officer will need to be provided. If no responsible party is available for contact or response and there is no other evidence of a crime the alarm will be considered a false alarm response.

If an alarm response was determined to be false but a crime occurred the alarm user must file a police report. The report must contain details regarding any damage done to the property and list any property that was stolen. If there is no evidence of a crime as describe above a copy of continuous video feed for the triggered event showing suspicious activity must be provided to the Alarm Enforcement Unit. If the Alarm Enforcement Unit determines the video feed shows suspicious activity the alarm user must file a police report to have the false alarm dismissed.

RMC section 5.58.050(A) states, “To install a Alarm or Alarm System compatible with the environment within the perimeters of the alarm activating devices and be available to maintain the Alarm System in good working order, and to take reasonable measures to prevent the occurrence of False Alarms.”

CONTACT: RPD Alarm Enforcement Unit, (951)826-5600

