

Work Session Meeting of the Sandy Springs City Council was held on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 6:03 p.m., Mayor Rusty Paul presiding.

Council Members present: Council Member John Paulson, Council Member Steve Soteres, Council Member Chris Burnett, Council Member Jody Reichel, Council Member Andy Bauman, and Council Member Tibby DeJulio.

INVOCATION

Rabbi Spike Anderson, Temple Emanu-El, offered the invocation.

STAFF DISCUSSION ITEMS

Public Safety

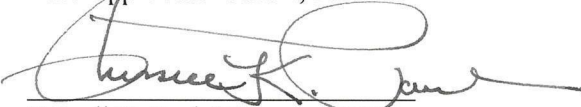
- 1. 19-174** An Ordinance to amend Chapter 18 (Emergency Management and Emergency Services) of the City's Code of Ordinances by amending the definition of "verify" to require that alarm companies submit audio or video evidence of an attempted or actual crime or other emergency situation no more than twenty-four (24) hours after the request for and dispatch of emergency services in response to an intrusion alarm

Staff Attorney Joe Leonard stated last summer the City amended its alarm ordinance to move to a model of true verification with the intent of reducing the number of requests for public safety response that ultimately turn out to be false alarms. True verification means the alarm company verifies an actual or attempted crime in progress through audio, video, or in person verification before requesting emergency response to an activated intrusion alarm. Research indicates that true verification provides a documented path of success in reducing the number of false alarm requests by alarm companies for emergency response. True verification is set to take effect on June 19, 2019. In the eleven months since the ordinance was amended to provide for true verification, the City has worked diligently to prepare for the upcoming June 19th deadline. These efforts have included outreach to customers, alarm companies and media outlets, development and dissemination of educational materials, and research into the limits of emerging technologies to provide value to the customer and timely evidence to emergency responders. The false alarm ordinance was amended with the intent of utilizing these emerging technologies to make audio or video evidence of a crime instantly available to emergency responders. However, as the effective date approaches these technologies have yet to achieve the kind of market penetration or price point that would make such a mandate practical. Therefore, the City Attorney's office recommends amending the Sandy Springs Municipal Code Section 18-35, to allow alarm companies to submit its audio and video verification up to twenty-four hours after the request for and dispatch of emergency services in response to an intrusion alarm.

There was a consensus of Council to move this item forward to the Regular meeting agenda.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

Date Approved: June 4, 2019


Russell K. Paul, Mayor


Coty Thigpen, City Clerk