

## **ALARM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED IN TENNESSEE AND GEORGIA**

The Georgia and Tennessee Police Chiefs Associations, respectively, have formed partnerships with the Georgia and Tennessee Burglar and Fire Alarm Associations and have established an Alarm Management Committee for each state. The Presidents of both Chiefs Associations have appointed members from their Associations and the Alarm Industry to serve on the standing committees. The work in establishing the committees was facilitated by the Security Industry Alarm Coalition (SIAC) working in partnership with the leadership of the Chiefs Associations and driven by the need to develop sound alarm management programs within both states. The committees are charged with the responsibility of researching alarm management issues and making recommendations to their Executive Boards and the General Membership for adoption of effective strategies by local agencies. The ultimate goal is to provide options for police executives to reduce alarm dispatches and enhance their community's safety through better use of department resources. Many of the strategies being considered include those developed jointly by SIAC and the IACP's Private Sector Liaison Committee and contained in the National Burglar and Fire Alarm Association (NBFAA) and the False Alarm Reduction Association's (FARA) Model Ordinance, i.e.: registration guidelines, graduated fine structure, new equipment standards, suspension of response to chronic abusers, and in-house or outsourced billing and tracking components.

As the result of the committees' first meetings both are recommending to their associations the adoption of an Enhanced Call Verification (ECV) Resolution which would mirror the Resolution adopted by IACP during the 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. Enhanced Call Verification (also referred to as Multiple Call Verification), initiated by the alarm industry, urges alarm companies and central stations, to make two or more calls to the premises and/or the alarm users prior to requesting police dispatch. The Resolution encourages jurisdictions to adopt departmental policies and/or local ordinances mandating ECV procedures. Over the past 18-months, jurisdictions that require ECV procedures have seen significant reductions in alarm dispatches.

Also, the committees' are charged to research legislative issues related to public safety and the security alarm industry. An example is Georgia's need to introduce legislation to establish and regulate licensing requirements for alarm dealers and installers.

Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police President Louis Dekmar, stated, "I have established the Alarm Management Committee, chaired by Fourth Vice President Stacey Cotton, and consisting of law enforcement and alarm industry leaders to help find ways

to implement alarm reduction programs in Georgia”. According to Chief Cotton, “the committee is preparing a recommendation to present to the Board for the adoption of the Model Ordinance for the State of Georgia”. Committee Member Bonnie Bradley, General Manager, Bowman Security Systems, stated, “This is a wonderful opportunity for the alarm industry to work in partnership with Georgia’s Police Chiefs”.

Chief Lee Reese, Chair of Tennessee’s committee commented, “The work of this committee will not only have far reaching effects in developing alarm reduction programs, but also in building strong partnerships with the alarm industry.” Chief Reese continued, “I am pleased with the committee, the charge that has been given to us, and the impact we can have on the issue of false alarms”. Paul Owen, Committee Member and Vice President, ADS Security, stated, “ The Tennessee alarm industry is looking forward to working in concert with the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police, and we should have great resolve in dealing with the critical issue of false alarms”.

“Tennessee and Georgia are great examples of law enforcement leadership, the alarm industry and SIAC working together...and there is a great deal of positive energy among the committee members” stated Glen Mowrey, Retired Deputy Chief, and a National Law Enforcement Liaison, SIAC. According the Stan Martin, SIAC’s Executive Director, “The primary mission of SIAC is to work with local and state law enforcement agencies and the alarm industry in finding viable solutions to alarm management issues...and we are very pleased with the partnerships that have developed with the Tennessee and Georgia Police Chiefs Associations”

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