

Your Worship & Members of Council,

Re: New Security Alarm Systems Bylaw – Agenda Item #6 Sep 8/2008

Position: That we retain the current bylaw

Rationale:

As noted in the attachment the proposed fee schedule – with heavy-handed fines as well as lack of any forgiveness for an error being made by our residents in the proposed bylaw – is out of keeping with a compassionate and caring society.

The vast majority of residents with alarms provide a service to the community that helps reduce crime, and subsequently lessen the utilization of policing manpower. To charge residents who make the occasional error is both vindictive and counter-productive. As the attached list indicates, ONLY one BC jurisdiction – an RCMP detachment (in Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows) imposes a substantial fine for the first false alarm, with rapidly escalating fines for subsequent false alarms. Although that jurisdiction has noted no increase in break-ins (due to say many people no longer using an alarm system) – it, unlike many other municipalities (DNV included), has not seen a REDUCTION in break-ins. So it appears that their program is a failure in at least some aspects.

Extreme measures are rarely the appropriate solution. I find it ironic that my automobile insurance company allows me to have one accident, without changing my rates while the District of North Vancouver proposes just the opposite for a security alarm “accident”. Is it possible that private companies can be more compassionate than our local government?

As for process! I was one of two members of the public present at the Council Workshop of Dec 10/2007 where this issue was discussed. Some items I noted were:

- Councillor Nixon requesting a forum with the Alarm Companies in advance of dealing with any proposed changes to a bylaw. Has this taken place?
- On a personal note: We subsidize recreation by \$millions with our taxes – covering some 50% of the cost of this service. Would we then be unwilling to forgive some of our residents for making a mistake which cost residents less than 1% of the recreation cost – some \$1-\$2 /yr/resident?
- That the concept of charging the alarm companies be explored? Has it?
- That council be provided with information as to how alarms reduce crime. Has this been provided? My information indicates that alarmed systems have ¼ of the break-ins of those without alarms.
- That police attendance – even for a false alarm – offers some comfort/benefit to our residents.
- There was a request to know which alarm companies delivered poor service. Where is the response to this?
- Actual response times to alarms are so long that they are unlikely to catch break-ins. This certainly indicates that responses do not impose any safety burdens.
- The question - to what extent should users fund 100% of the costs?

People, especially our (growing) elderly segment of our society, make mistakes. To add fines to their embarrassment shows a lack of tact and leadership. Please leave the existing bylaw in place.

Yours truly,

Corrie Kost, 2851 Colwood Dr. North Vancouver, V7R2R3

Place	1st False	2nd False	3rd False	4th False	5th False	6th False	7th False
Town of View Royal	free	free	free	free	free	free	\$100
City of Vancouver	free	free	free	\$75	\$150	\$150	\$150
City of Colwood	free	free	free	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
City of Kamloops	free	free	free	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
City of Port Alberni	free	free	free	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
City of Port Moody	free	free	free	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
City of Prince Rupert	free	free	free	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
District of Chilliwack	free	free	free	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
District of Oak Bay	free	free	free	\$100	\$100 w S		
Town of Sidney	free	free	free	\$100	S		
City of Terrace	free	free	free	\$100	\$200	\$300	\$300
City of Courtenay	free	free	free	\$100	\$200	\$250	\$250
District of Kitimat-Stikine	free	free	free	\$100	\$200	\$300	\$300
Burnaby	free	free	free	\$100	\$150	\$300	\$300
District of Campbell River	free	free	free	\$100	\$200	\$250	\$250
District of Mission	free	free	free	\$100	\$150	\$300	\$300
City of Parksville	free	free	free	\$100	\$200	\$300	\$400
District of Powel River	free	free	free	\$100	\$125	\$150	\$200
District of Saanich	free	free	free	\$100	\$100 w S		
City of Williams Lake	free	free	free	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
City of Nanaimo	free	free	free	\$140	\$140 w S	\$200	\$200 w 1yr S
City of Coquitlam	free	free	free	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150
City of Kelowna	free	free	\$50	\$100+\$100	\$100+\$100	\$100+\$100	\$100+\$100
City of Delta	free	free	\$50	\$100	\$150	\$300	\$300
District of Peachland	free	free	\$50	\$100 w S			
District of Central Okanagan	free	free	\$50	\$100 w S			
Corporation of Delta	free	free	\$50	\$100	\$150	\$150	\$150
District of Lake County	free	free	\$50	\$100	permit susp		
City of Trail	free	free	\$75	\$125	\$200	\$200	\$200
District of MacKenzie	free	free	\$75	\$125	\$200		
City of Prince George	free	free	\$75	\$125	\$200	\$200	\$200
City of Castegar	free	free	\$75	\$125	\$125	\$125	\$125
City of New Westminster	free	free	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
City of Dawson Creek	free	\$50	\$75	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
District of West vancouver	free	\$50	\$75	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
City of Langley	free	\$50	\$75	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
City of Richmond	free	\$50	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
Township of Langley	free	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
District of North Vancouver(C)	free	\$130	\$130	\$130	\$130	\$130	\$130
City of Surrey	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
District of North Vancouver(P)	\$150	\$300	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$600	\$600
Maple Ridge / Pitt Meadows	\$150	\$300	\$600	\$1,200	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400

(C) - Current (P) - Proposed
w S = With Suspension
w 1yr S = With 1 yr suspension

Sources: <http://www.alarmsbc.com/fafinesbc.htm> <http://vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/cclerk/20040928/a4.htm>