



## PRESS RELEASE

Media Contacts:  
The Margulies Communications Group: 214-368-0909  
Ross Blackstone: [ross@prexperts.net](mailto:ross@prexperts.net)  
David Margulies: [davidm@prexperts.net](mailto:davidm@prexperts.net)

### **POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION SETS A TREND BY ADOPTING AN ALARM MODEL ORDINANCE**

FRISCO, Texas (April 30, 2007) – The State of Florida set another “first” in its efforts to manage alarms and enhance public safety. On April 10, 2007, the Florida Police Chiefs Association (FPCA) passed a resolution to adopt a Model Alarm Ordinance. The ordinance will be used by police chiefs across the state to develop and/or revise their jurisdiction’s alarm management programs. It serves as the nation’s first model alarm ordinance developed by a state police chiefs association.

The Security Industry Alarm Coalition (SIAC) as well as the Alarm Association of Florida (AAF) helped FPCA develop the ordinance. Last year all three groups supported a legislative bill which made Florida the first in the country to fully enforce a statewide statute known as Enhanced Call Verification (ECV).

“Florida is setting the trend for successful alarm management across the country,” said Stan Martin, executive director of SIAC. “We are proud to be part of this progressive movement and applaud our law enforcement partners in Florida as well as the Alarm Association of Florida for taking this initiative.”

“By approving the Model Alarm Ordinance resolution, our board of directors passed a milestone for Florida law enforcement agencies looking to address the issue of alarm dispatches,” said Chief Nolan McLeod, Auburndale Police Department and President of the Florida Police Chiefs Association. “We are moving in a positive direction and developing strong alarm management programs throughout the state.”

SIAC helped develop the ordinance as part of the FPCA’s new Alarm Management Committee. Four police chiefs and three members of the Alarm Association of Florida (AAF) also participated. The ordinance seeks to reduce false dispatches and the impact they have on police resources.

Its key measures include the following:

- Registration of alarm systems
- An escalating fine structure for alarm abusers who carelessly allow for repeat false dispatches
- Establishment of a system to accept the cancellation of alarms after accidental activations
- Ending police response to alarm users who fail to pay fines and/or permit fees
- An appeal process for people who disagree with fines or the cancellation of their police response
- The use of equipment that meets new quality standards which help prevent false activations
- ECV – the practice of calling a back-up phone number to identify false alarms before dispatching police
- Establishing alarm awareness classes for the community

“The simple fact that FPCA created an Alarm Management Committee is monumental,” added Martin. “Not only did they develop a model for reducing alarm dispatches, they also developed a model for how law enforcement agencies can work with the private sector to create equally beneficial solutions.”

“The partnership with the alarm industry, SIAC, AAF and our organization’s Alarm Management Committee is phenomenal,” said Amy Mercer, Executive Director of the FPCA. “We look forward to long term successes.”

Glen Mowrey, SIAC’s National Law Enforcement Liaison who coordinates the committee’s work, stated, “The successes we are experiencing in Florida are the direct result of the committee’s vision, positive energy, and problem solving abilities.”

“We tried to build a relationship with Florida police executives for years,” said Bob Neely, AAF’s Executive Director. “The recent development of the Alarm Management Committee has finally facilitated that partnership. We now have a strong relationship and the Model Alarm Ordinance is the fruit of that labor.”

#### **ABOUT SIAC**

*SIAC is comprised of four major North American security associations--Canadian Security Association (CANASA), Security Industry Association (SIA), Central Station Alarm Association (CSAA), and the National Burglar & Fire Alarm Association (NBFAA)--representing one voice for the alarm industry on alarm management issues. SIAC’s primary charter is to significantly reduce calls for service while strengthening the lines of communication with law enforcement professionals and end users. For more information, contact [www.SIACinc.org](http://www.SIACinc.org).*

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Security Industry Alarm Coalition (SIAC)  
11209 New Orleans Drive • Frisco, TX 75035  
Phone: (972) 377-9401 • Fax: (972) 377-9285

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