



PRESS RELEASE

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ANOTHER STATE FOLLOWS THE TREND TO REDUCE FALSE POLICE DISPATCHES

Tennessee's New Law Aims to Save Law Enforcement Resources

FRISCO, Texas (June 11, 2007) – Tennessee has become the second state in the country to follow a new trend which some herald as a modern solution to redirecting police resources. On May 15, 2007, Governor Phil Bredesen signed a law requiring the entire state to implement Enhanced Call Verification (ECV). According to the law, alarm monitoring companies must now call “at least two different numbers prior to dispatching police to a location.”

“What started out as a state law in Florida last year is proving to be a trend for false dispatch reduction across the country,” said Glen Mowrey, national law enforcement liaison for the Security Industry Alarm Coalition (SIAC). “Most agencies have had limited success with other policies in the past, but the proliferation of cell phones has made ECV the best solution for the future.”

The idea behind the law is that alarm monitoring companies can be highly effective in identifying false alarms by simply calling a second phone number when the first call goes unanswered. SIAC claims ECV, combined with the alarm industries “best practices,” can reduce dispatches by more than 70 percent. Tennessee’s law enforcement executives say that will help save their limited resources, and allow them to redirect officers to more pressing needs.

“As public agencies, we are always limited on our resources,” said John Lowry, president of the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police (TACP). “We’re excited that our officers will now be able to spend their time more efficiently than responding to too many false burglar alarms.”

“We were already working with municipalities across the state to implement local ECV policies,” said Penny Brooks, executive director of the Tennessee Burglar and Fire Alarm Association (TBFAA). “When we heard about Florida’s idea to make it a statewide law, it seemed like a no-brainer.”

“With the solid endorsement of law enforcement, passing the law proved to be very easy,” said John Knox, legislative chair for TBFAA and the TACP’s Alarm Management Committee. “Both the senate and the house passed the legislation unanimously.”

The new law will improve Tennessee’s ECV Resolution passed two years ago. The previous law was based on the International Association of Chiefs of Police as well as the National Sheriffs Association’s resolution.

“This is another joint effort that strengthens our partnership with the alarm industry,” said TACP Executive Director, Maggi McLean, Maggi McLean, TACP executive director.

The two-call law does not apply to hold-up alarms. It went into effect on May 23, 2007.

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.

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