



**City of Coral Gables**  
**CITY COMMISSION MEETING**  
**September 23, 2014**

**ITEM TITLE:**

**Emergency Ordinance.** An emergency ordinance of the City Commission of Coral Gables creating sections 26-44 through 26-46 of the City Code establishing a crime prevention program concerning alarm systems for the benefit of the residents of the City of Coral Gables; providing immunity for the City and its officials, police officers, employees, and agents, from any liability related to the establishment, implementation, or operation of the program, and requiring waiver of liability related thereto; allowing residents to authorize alarm businesses to immediately contact the Coral Gables Police Department for alarm dispatch following an unanswered central monitoring verification call; further amending false alarm fee provision encoded in section 26-37(a) of the City Code in relation to this program; and urging the Legislature and Governor to adopt legislation allowing property owners to bypass the requirements of F.S. 489.529; and providing for Severability, Codification, Repealer, and an Effective Date.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD RECOMMENDATION:**

Approval.

**BRIEF HISTORY:**

Concerns have recently been raised regarding the delay occasioned by multiple central monitoring verification calls made by an alarm company prior to calling the police department. To mitigate the delay occasioned by such calls going unanswered, the proposed terms of the ordinance, in accordance with the Commission's Charter home rule powers and its local authority, including police powers, pursuant to Article VII, sections 1(f), 1(g) and 2(b) of the Florida Constitution; the Municipal Home Rule Powers Act, ch. 166, F.S., provide to resident alarm users the option of authorizing an alarm business to immediately contact the Coral Gables Police Department for alarm dispatch following an unanswered central monitoring verification call. The proposed ordinance also provides residents with a potential legal cause of action against those alarm businesses which fail to comply with the terms of this emergency ordinance.

As will be further described during the Commission meeting, the matter is being treated as an emergency ordinance under section 13 of the Charter and section 166.041(3)(b) of the Florida Statutes in order to promote public safety and to address public concern. Under applicable law, it will require four votes for passage.

**APPROVED BY:**

Department Director	City Attorney	City Manager

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. Draft Ordinance