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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Wheeling Police Department to Enact False Alarm Program

WHEELING, W.Va., -- Beginning Oct. 1, 2016, residents and business owners in the City of Wheeling must have their burglar alarm systems registered with the Wheeling Police Department as part of the City's new false alarm ordinance. Failure to do so will result in a fine.

The new program's purpose is to establish reasonable expectations of alarm users and to ensure users are held responsible. The false alarm ordinance, (Section 501.11 in the Codified Ordinances of the City of Wheeling) was passed unanimously by Wheeling City Council on Oct. 6, 2015.

In 2012, **99.4%** of burglar alarm calls within the City of Wheeling were **false**, causing a major burden on the patrol units within the police department.

During that year:

- Wheeling P.D. responded to 1,373 alarm calls – 1,366 were false.
- 7 alarm calls resulted in an actual emergency (0.6%).
- 66 addresses resulted in 5 or more alarm calls.
- One address resulted in 29 separate responses in 2012.

The trend of false alarm calls continues to climb each year.

• **REGISTRATION:**

All alarm users in the City of Wheeling **MUST REGISTER** their alarm systems with Cry Wolf Services – an outside agency that will manage the database and all fines related to a false alarm call. There is **NO FEE** to register a burglar alarm system.

Residents and business owners can register online by visiting **crywolfservices.com/wheelingwv**. Further assistance is available by calling the Wheeling Police Department at 304-234-3675.

Failure to register a residential or business alarm will result in a \$100 civil penalty. Failure to renew an alarm annually will result in a \$25 fee.

Life alert, fire and car alarms are **NOT** required to be registered.

• IMPLEMENTATION:

Once the false alarm program is enacted and implemented, fees for having a false alarm call are as follows:

First offense	No Fine
2nd offense	\$50* (Can take class to have fee waived)
3rd & 4th offense	\$100
5th & 6th offense	\$200
7th & 8th offense	\$300
9th or more offenses	\$400

Alarm users can take a class after a second false alarm call in order to have a \$50 fee waived. "Alarm School" can be taken online once in a permit year (Jan. 1- Dec. 31) and must pass with a 70-percent grade in order to have the fee waived.

For more information on the City of Wheeling's False Alarm Program, contact Lt. Phil Redford at 304-234-3675 – or by visiting wheelingwv.gov.

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