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COUNCILWOMAN WENDY GREUEL CRACKS DOWN ON FALSE ALARM SCOFFLAWS

With City facing massive budget deficit, Greuel seeks to save taxpayer dollars

(LOS ANGELES) – With the City of Los Angeles facing a \$155 million budget crisis, Councilwoman Wendy Greuel proposed a new policy today, which could save the City millions of dollars by fining those responsible for false alarms to pay the fire department for the associated costs.

“When firefighters respond to a false alarm, they are depleting resources that could be used to respond to legitimate, life-threatening emergencies,” said Councilwoman Greuel. “We are letting people know that if you pull a fire alarm, you will get burned.”

The City loses approximately \$27 million from 2004-2006 due to false alarm billings. Currently an alarm-user is fined for a false alarm when the LAPD is called, however a fine is not applied if the LAFD is called.

“We are facing a budget crisis,” said Councilwoman Greuel. “It is illogical for the false-alarm billing policy to apply when the LAPD is called and not the LAFD. Closing this loop will allow us to save money, while serving as a deterrent to these amateur pranks.”

The LA Fire Department responded to nearly 90,000 false alarms over the past three years.

2005	29593 false alarms
2006	28379 false alarms
2007	30324 false alarms

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