

Subject: False Alarm Bylaw Nixed (Nov. 17)

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From: "John Hunter" <hunterjohn@telus.net>

To: "Letters to the Editor NS Outlook" <newsroom@northshoreoutlook.com>

Dear Editor

I would like to supplement your recent item regarding false alarms.

DNV residents who appeared at Council last July to oppose the bylaw were not impressed by a proposal to help us on home security by forcing us to buy a liscence. By Staff's own numbers, it effects about 50% of DNV residents! We have a history on this file of trying to build a system and a bureaucracy, rather than cutting the number of free false alarms from 3 (originally) EVERY YEAR to zero. Try zero freebies, see if it works. If that does not work, increase the fine for each false alarm as a "wake-up" call. Punish the "guilty", not all of us!

In addition, the proposal looked like a cash grab. It recovered far more than the cost of the problem, by Staff's own numbers. Its targets included alarm systems with no external monitoring, innocents in the "false alarm war".

Finally, it reduced the penalty for false alarms by allowing more freebies and a lower fine for the non-freebies vs. today. Where was the logic in this?

DNV Staff has provided no evidence in their reports that this proposal was the most cost effective option. Indeed, they didn't even CLAIM it was.

I think most residents would agree with the benefits of reducing false alarms, but lets try the KISS principle first, and try to be cost effective in our solutions with less bureaucracy.

Apparently DNV Council shared the same views as, if I recall correctly, they defeated the proposal unanimously at third reading.

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PS Would appreciate it if you would pass this to Jennifer