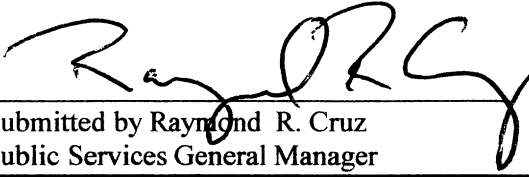




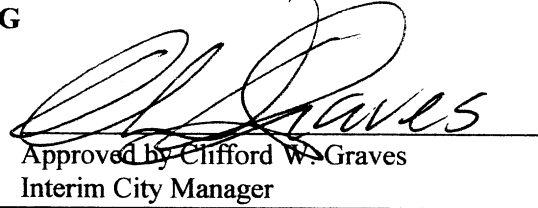
City of Carson Report to Mayor and City Council

February 1, 2011
New Business Consent

SUBJECT: CONSIDER DISCUSSION OF RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES OF HOMES WHILE UNDERGOING FUMIGATION TENTING



Submitted by Raymond R. Cruz
Public Services General Manager



Approved by Clifford W. Graves
Interim City Manager

I. SUMMARY

This item is on the agenda at the request of Mayor Dear and Councilmember Davis-Holmes.

At the December 21, 2010 Council meeting, Carson resident Garry Jacobs expressed his concern that there seemed to be an increase in the number of residential burglaries while the homes were undergoing fumigation tenting. Since homes are unoccupied while the fumigation process occurs, as indicated by the presence of the fumigation tent, home burglaries are a crime of opportunity. On December 21, 2010, both Mayor Dear and Councilmember Davis-Holmes requested that staff place this matter on a future agenda.

II. RECOMMENDATION

RECEIVE and FILE.

III. ALTERNATIVES

None.

IV. BACKGROUND

Licensed fumigators exercise specific security precautions when they erect a fumigation tent over a home. Once the fumigation tent has been erected and the fumigant has been dispersed, the fumigation company will secure the doors and windows with the existing locks in the residence and then add an additional lock on the main entry door to prevent entry, even by the property owner, while the fumigation occurs. When the fumigation process is completed, the fumigation company will return to the residence, take down the tent, unlock and open the residence and set up fans to facilitate removal of any remaining fumigation gas. Later, after any remaining gas has been dispersed, they remove the fans and secure the house again until the resident returns.

Once a fumigation tent has been erected over a house, it is left unoccupied for a period of time. Unfortunately, this provides an opportunity for burglars who are willing to subject themselves to the fumigation gas to enter the home. Licensed fumigators recommend that the homeowner provide additional security if they are

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concerned about the possibility of burglary or vandalism. Since most insect fumigants are odorless, some fumigators disperse tear gas or pepper spray in addition to the fumigant to act as a deterrent to intruders.

From January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2010, there were a total of 389 residential burglaries. Of these, five of the burglaries occurred while the houses were being fumigated. This accounts for slightly over one per cent of the total residential burglaries. The Sheriff's Department has indicated that, with prior notification, additional patrols can be arranged when a resident has their home fumigated.

V. FISCAL IMPACT

None.

VI. EXHIBITS

None.

Prepared by: Brent Gesch, Public Safety Administrative Analyst

TO:Rev010511

Reviewed by:

City Clerk	City Treasurer
<u>Administrative Services</u>	<u>Development Services</u>
<u>Economic Development Services</u>	<u>Public Services</u>

Action taken by City Council

Date _____ Action _____