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Submitted articles contained in this newsletter are the expressed opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Officers, Directors, and Members of the TBFAA. The publisher of this magazine is not responsible for any errors or omissions in advertising or other advertising matters.

Texas Burglar and Fire Alarm Association, Inc., (TBFAA) is a non-profit organization of security professionals who have joined together to enrich the industry by providing membership training and representing the membership as a whole in the Texas Legislature, the Texas Private Security Bureau and the Texas Fire Marshal’s Office among many other programs.

The TRANSMITTER is published by the Texas Burglar and Fire Alarm Association, a Texas not for profit association.

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Transmitter Editor  Mary Edmonson  800.995.4894
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There has been a bunch of activity since the last Transmitter. The legislative session has started and is now in the sausage making phase.

Our Legislative Chair, Mr. Chris Russell will fill us all in on the TBFAA’s legislative efforts this session after the session adjourns.

The weather is much better, although I heard that there were possible tornadoes in the North Texas area, I hope everyone is safe up there.

We’re working on getting more training classes, but we still need more instructors. If you know someone that would like to enhance their standing in the industry, make some extra money and meet new people, contact our erstwhile Training Director Whitney Crahen. Her contact info is on the TBFAA website (www.tbfaa.org).

The ISC West was as big as ever and I was able to visit with a lot of our great vendors that do so much to support our organization here in Texas. At least half of the passengers on the flight my wife and I took out of Austin were made up of alarm industry professionals and fellow alarm company folks. The flight back was even better since several of my fellow travelers were TBFAA members.

Please make an effort to attend your local TBFAA Chapter meetings if you live in Austin, Corpus Christi or McAllen or your local association if you live in the DFW, San Antonio or Houston areas. Usually great information and comraderie.

Jeff Bright – President
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Change Are in the Wind

By Roy A. Horn
VP TBFAA Fire Alarm
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One of the biggest changes that will definitely occur this year is the office of Fire Alarm Director. Mark Lockerman is the present Fire Alarm Director of Licensing and has decided to retire, effective April 15 of this year. Mark has been a good friend of TBFAA and has always listened to our association problems and recommendations. TBFAA is losing a real asset. We understand that Mark will spend most of his time handing rental property that he and his wife own in the Austin area. Best wishes to Mark, he will be missed.

Mark’s replacement will be Ernest McCloud starting June 1. Mr. McCloud was the senior field license agent for the Texas State Fire Marshal’s office and worked directly with Mark Lockerman. Mr. McCloud worked out of the Corpus Christi, Tx area and has been with the licensing division for some 16 years. We look forward to working with Mr. McCloud in the future.

Legislative rumors in the wind are very interesting. I am hearing there are some legislative thoughts swirling around in Austin that there should not be any licensing requirements within our industry, and for that matter, other trades within the industry! Wow, if that takes hold, I cannot even imagine the ultimate consequences.

Just one other thought, check TBFAA’s web site and our Transmitter for the upcoming TBFAA Convention to be held in San Antonio, TX in October. It would be a real benefit to your organization.

SFMO Director of Licensing Retiring

4.6.15—eNews - State Fire Marshal’s Office

Director of Licensing Mark Lockerman is retiring in May after 23 years with the State Fire Marshal’s Office. His last day in the office will be April 15. In his time with the SFMO, Mark has also served as director of investigations and as Acting State Fire Marshal.

Current Licensing Captain Ernie McCloud will be the new Director of Licensing and the Forensic Arson Laboratory starting June 1.

Thank you Mark for your dedication to the fire service and the citizens of Texas.
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Law Enforcement Association Defines Verified Alarms

by: Spencer Ives Security Systems News

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

GALVESTON, Texas—Steve Walker, president of the Partnership for Priority Verified Alarm Response, called the Texas Police Chiefs Association’s definition of the term “verified alarm” a big step for future conversations on alarm verification.

“It’s a huge step forward for us,” Walker said. “This is the first state that has taken the step forward to try to get really clear on what a verified alarm is.”

A verified alarm, by this definition, is one in which a trained central station operator “confirms the presence of humans [at a specific site], and [has] information that shows that there is a probable crime in progress,” Chris Vinson, chairman of the Texas Police Chiefs Association’s alarm committee, told Security Systems News. It is a “best practice” definition, he said; each law enforcement agency in the state individually decides whether to adopt it.

Walker said the term “enhanced call verification” is confusing. ECV was seen as verifying false alarms, whereas verified alarms confirm probable crimes. Verification can occur through various sensors, audio or video.

PPVAR changed its name in March from the Partnership for Priority Video Alarm Response to the Partnership for Priority Verified Alarm Response. The change moves the organization away from one technology and directs it towards the total concept of verification, Walker said.

The resolution passed by the association at its annual meet-

See page 18 for a copy of the full resolution
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Governor Greg Abbott today appointed and named Patricia “Patti” James of Houston, Chair of the Private Security Board. Additionally he appointed Claude “C.D.” Siems, also of Houston to the board, both for terms to expire on January 21, 2021.

Patti James established Patti James Investigations in 1990 in order to create a more ethical and professional approach to providing investigative services. In working to contribute to the advancement and public perception of private investigators she became involved in the Texas Association of Licensed Investigators (TALI). Her work included serving as TALI Secretary (1993-94), Vice President (1994-95), President (1995-97), and ultimately Chairman of the Board from 1998-99 and again from 2001-02.

Throughout the years James has served on numerous committees, including Board Advisory Committee, TCI Committee, and Continuing Education Committee. She became a Certified Legal Investigator (CLI) in 1995, and a Texas Certified Investigator (TCI) in 1998. James has established a cordial working relationship with The Department of Public Safety Private Security Bureau, and has served on several committees by the bureau, including reviewing board rules, and most recently a continuing education research committee.


Siems started locksmithing in 1977 and after the passing of his boss, Ted Robbins, and started C.& D. Safe & Lock Inc. in 1986. He has been a member of the Texas Locksmith Association (TLA) and the Greater Houston Locksmith Association (GHLA) for well over 30 years. Siems served as the Parliamentarian for TLA in 2014 and served as President for GHLA in 2013 & 2014. He is presently a volunteer on the Keys and Locks Committee for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. He served as District Deputy Grand Master for District 30B and is currently District Instructor for District 30B for the Grand Lodge of Texas.

These appointments are subject to Senate confirmation.
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Pool party: 9 till ??

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WHEREAS, a correctly installed and properly operated electronic security system is an effective way to deter crime and protect property by efficiently summoning law enforcement officers during the commission of the crime which allows responding officers to arrest suspects in the process of committing crimes; and

WHEREAS, an effective way to stop crime and protect property is to arrest suspects in the process of committing crimes; and

WHEREAS, many crimes are committed by serial offenders and arresting the offender in the act is an effective method of stopping the current offense, clearing previous offenses committed by the offender, and preventing future offenses committed by the offender; and

WHEREAS, accurate identification of criminal offenses that are in progress will reduce false alarms, increase arrests, and reduce property loss; and

WHEREAS, the knowledge of number of suspects, suspect description, suspect location, weapons, presence of victims, and other pertinent information will enhance the safety of responding law enforcement officers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Texas Police Chiefs Association:

Section 1. That, a Verified Alarm shall be defined as an electronic security system event in which a trained central station operator using a standardized protocol has determined the presence of humans and the high probability that a criminal offense is in progress.

Section 2. That, a law enforcement agency having jurisdiction to respond to Verified Alarms has the autonomy and authority to increase the priority of Verified Alarm calls to increase the arrest of offenders and reduce property loss.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 2nd day of April, 2015

APPROVED:

[Signature]

Chief John Chancellor

ATTEST:

[Signature]

James McLaughlin, Jr.
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City Waives Alarm Fees for Domestic Violence Victims

San Antonio Express - Jeremy T. Gerlach - April 21, 2015

The San Antonio Governance Committee has approved an official request from District 2 City Councilman Alan Warrick that will make it easier for victims of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault and stalking to install alarms in their residences.

Warrick filed the original Council Consideration Request (CCR) on January 22, aiming to waive the $40 permit fee that comes with the installation of an alarm system within city limits for any individual under a protective court order. Councilmembers Cris Medina, Rebecca Viagran, Ron Nirenberg, Roberto Treviño and Ray Lopez all signed the CCR in January.

“This means safer communities, safer streets and safer districts throughout San Antonio,” said Warrick, who announced the fee waiver’s approval April 15 in a news conference on City Hall’s front steps.

Patricia Castillo, executive director of the PEACE Initiative, a nonprofit that aims to end domestic violence through community efforts, praised the council for taking an initiative on the issue.

“When battered women are harmed, the potential exists for anyone around (that woman) to be harmed,” Castillo noted. “So, having alarm systems in place and being able to waive those fees are very important for people who live with family violence in our community.”

Keely Petty of the Bethel Prevention Coalition, a nonprofit that works to address the root causes of family violence, also is a pastor at Bethel International Christian Fellowship in northeast San Antonio.

Like Castillo, she also praised city leaders for passing the fee waiver and said it’s a step toward creating a safer community.

“There’s no greater opportunity for the women in our community to feel safe, to feel secure, and to have relief (than) with this ordinance passed,” Petty said. “We are excited about creating safe, healthy opportunities for (these) women, and looking forward to knocking on a lot of doors, getting the word out that this opportunity is available.”

Bill would close loophole exposed by KXAN

KXAN - Brian Collister - April 14, 2015

AUSTIN (KXAN) — A Cedar Park lawmaker is working to close a loophole that could allow registered sex offenders or violent criminals to work in your home before undergoing a thorough background check. The move comes in response to a KXAN Investigation which found a registered sex offender installing home security alarm systems.

The investigation found current law allows applicants for a state license, to install alarms or be a locksmith, can work for up to 120 days while a background check is conducted and before their license application is approved. Now, State Rep. Tony Dale is proposing a bill to close the loophole exposed in the investigation.

“Our bill says that if you’re going to work in the private security industry, things like putting alarms in peoples homes or businesses, that you have to have completed a background check,” Dale told the House Committee on Homeland Security and Public Safety.

The bill would allow large companies to do their own background checks through the Department of Public Safety as long as it is available for inspection by the state. The bill was left pending in committee Tuesday, with no apparent opposition.

We’ll keep you posted on whether or not this bill becomes law.
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Fire Exam Prep


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<th>Month</th>
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<td>June</td>
<td>18&amp;19</td>
<td>Houston - TriEd North</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>23&amp;24</td>
<td>McAllen - TriEd</td>
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<td>6&amp;7</td>
<td>San Antonio - ADI</td>
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<td>Houston - ADI Pinemont</td>
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8 Hour - 1 day Residential Fire Alarm Technician


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Level 1 Class

This training program, provided by TBFAA is a certified, nationally recognized training program approved by the Texas Private Security Bureau, License #0104. This 16-hour course meets requirements for installers and salespersons. The program provides an overview on the theory, installation and maintenance of alarm systems. Topics include: Burglar Alarm Systems Overview, Sensors, Controls & Communications, Notification Devices, Hold up Alarms, Professionalism & Ethics, Building Construction, Safety, Law, Standards & Codes, General Electricity & Electronics, Microprocessors & Computers, Tools & Fasteners, Testing & Troubleshooting.

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<td>El Paso</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>17&amp;18</td>
<td>McAllen - TriEd</td>
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