



Council Agenda Report

To: Mayor Grisanti and the Honorable Members of the City Council

Prepared by: Luis Flores, Public Safety Liaison

Approved by: Steve McClary, City Manager

Date prepared: August 23, 2022 Meeting date: September 27, 2022

Subject: KnoxBox Education Campaign

RECOMMENDED ACTION: 1) Review the recommendation by the Public Safety Commission to provide Los Angeles County Sheriff Deputies access to gated communities through the installation of emergency key systems; and 2) Provide direction to staff and, if appropriate, direct staff to add the KnoxBox Education Campaign to the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Work Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action.

WORK PLAN: This item was not included in the Adopted Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. If the Council directs staff to proceed with the project it will be incorporated into the Work Plan at the Mid-Year Budget Update.

DISCUSSION: The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) plays a significant role in maintaining and improving the public health, safety, and general welfare of Malibu residents by responding to emergency calls and working proactively with the community to address potential concerns. To effectively and efficiently respond to emergency calls for every resident of the City, LASD Deputies require access to every residential and commercial area, including gated communities. Currently, there are approximately 55 gated communities/residential properties within the City and only the Los Angeles County Fire Department has access to them through an existing emergency key system. Though the City is able to provide Deputies with security codes for gated communities, the codes change frequently and the City isn't always provided with the updated codes in a timely manner, affecting response times to these particular communities.

To provide LASD access to gated communities through an emergency key system, City staff presented two options to the Public Safety Commission during the July 6, 2022 Regular Meeting:

- 1) Implement a Citywide ordinance requiring gated residential communities to install an emergency key system, or
- 2) Conduct a community education campaign that encourages all property owners in gated residential communities to install their own emergency key systems.

Community Education Campaign

Commissioners reviewed the options and agreed to pursue a community education campaign that educates property owners on the importance of installing emergency key systems in their respective communities. City staff, in partnership with LASD, would be responsible for reaching out to property owners/HOAs on a routine basis to provide an overview of crime rates and emergency calls in their respective areas with the goal of encouraging the installation of an emergency key system. Property owners can then purchase their own emergency key system and have it installed by a locksmith, followed by a site visit from LASD to verify access. Property owners/HOAs would be responsible for the purchasing, maintenance, and installation costs.

The benefits of this option are that it would allow property owners/HOAs to consider additional means of security after learning of the crime rates in their respective areas. It would also allow for them to procure an emergency key system within a flexible time period instead of one set by an ordinance. However, the challenge for this option is that it cannot guarantee property owner participation and, therefore, would not be able to ensure that Deputies have immediate access to all communities within the City.

KnoxBox

The emergency key system to be used is the KnoxBox, a product of The Knox Company. The KnoxBox is separate from the Los Angeles County Fire Department system and requires a separate installation at locations designated by the Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff Station. Deputies are then provided with the Knox Master Key, which grants them access to any gated residential community with a KnoxBox installed. The Knox Master Key is to be used solely by law enforcement and is not provided to residents, City staff, or other officials. KnoxBoxes are also equipped with a tamper switch for further protection. Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's Station Deputies currently have a copy of the Knox Master Key due to multiple individual properties throughout the City already having a KnoxBox installed. Installing a new emergency key system other than KnoxBox that is not widely used by LASD would require additional coordination to ensure that Deputies have access to the system's unique key(s).

Staff requests that the City Council review and discuss the Public Safety Commission's recommendation and provide direction, as appropriate.

ATTACHMENTS: None.