



CITY OF WAUWATOSA
MEMO

To: **Government Affairs Committee**

From: **Barbara Kadrich, Fire Chief**

Date: **July 21, 2026**

Subject: **Request to Change the Ordinances for False Alarm Fees and Amendments to the Fire Prevention Code**

A. Issue

During a review of our ordinances we discovered that two of them; 14.28.120 Installation, Service, And Monitoring Fee for Fire Alarm Receiving Devices, And or Life Safety Equipment and 14.16.090 Amendments to Fire Prevention Code needed updated language to accurately reflect the department and our fee schedule.

B. Background/Options

Our fee for false alarms on the fee schedule has been updated however the code it refers to for enforcement; 14.28.120 Installation, Service, And Monitoring Fee for Fire Alarm Receiving Devices, has an old fee listed that differs from our fee listed on the fee schedule. We request to update the ordinance in the following way to accurately reflect our current fee and have it written in a way that if the fee schedule changes again in the future that our ordinance would not conflict with the new fee.

Proposed Ordinance:

14.28.120 Installation, Service, And Monitoring Fee for Fire Alarm Receiving Devices, And or Life Safety Equipment

- A. Any person, firm or corporation having a fire alarm, smoke detector or other type of alarm, and which alarm calls for a response from the fire department, shall be charged a fee for false alarms in accordance with the fees schedule adopted by the Common Council. If the possessor of the alarm can show to the satisfaction of the chief of the fire department that the false alarm was not the result of negligence or improper maintenance, such fee may be waived.

Additionally, we would like to make a change to 14.16.090 Amendments to Fire Prevention Code to include more gender-inclusive language when referring to the Chief position to accurately reflect our current or any future Chiefs that we may have. We propose changing "...in his..." to "...in his/her...".

Proposed Ordinance:

14.16.090 Amendments to Fire Prevention Code

The fire chief of the Wauwatosa Fire Department or the chief fire inspector shall also recommend amendments to the fire prevention code or ordinance which, in his/**her** judgment, shall be desirable.

C. Strategic Plan (Area of Focus)

Public Safety

D. Fiscal Impact

None

E. Recommendation

Recommending that the Common Council ratify the proposed changes to the listed ordinances so they are accurate and match our fee schedule and current staffing within our department.