



# REPORT TO COUNCIL

## City of Sacramento

# 23

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604  
www. CityofSacramento.org

STAFF REPORT  
**October 11, 2005**

Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council

**Subject:** Donation Of Municipal Fire Alarm Street Boxes To The Pioneer Mutual Hook  
And Ladder Society

**Location/Council District:** Citywide

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that City Council adopt the attached resolution authorizing the donation of surplus municipal fire alarm boxes to the Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder Society.

**Contact:** Julius Cherry, Fire Chief, 433-1601  
Steve Ferguson, Chief Information Officer, 808-8600  
Gary Henslee, Captain, 216-0324

**Presenters:** Gary Henslee, Captain

**Department:** Fire and Information Technology

**Division:** Not Applicable

**Organization No:** 2511 and 1310

**Summary:**

On February 1, 2005, the City Council was briefed on the Municipal Fire Alarm System Removal Project. The project includes the removal of 562 alarm pull boxes located throughout the City over the next eighteen to twenty-four months. This report recommends donating the boxes to the Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder Society.

**Committee/Commission Action:** None.



**Background Information:**

On February 1, 2005 the City Council was briefed on the Municipal Fire Alarm System Removal Project which includes the removal of 562 fire alarm/street call boxes currently hooked into the Regional Fire Dispatch. Over the life of the project, as the boxes and associated infrastructure are removed, the material will have to be disposed of in an appropriate manner. Staff reviewed two alternatives for the disposition of the fire alarm boxes.

Alternative 1: Selling the alarm boxes on the open market. To determine the potential revenues that could be generated, staff placed a dozen boxes on EBAY. Attachment 1 provides an example of the prices that the boxes could possibly be sold for. The bids ranged from \$10 to \$202.50 with an average of \$144.76. Although the boxes could be sold on the open market, the cost of administration, marketing, storing, packaging and shipping the boxes may not net the City an appreciable return.

Alternative 2: Donating the alarm boxes to a charitable organization. A charitable, non-profit organization could store and market the call boxes using the proceeds to further its purpose, thereby relieving the City of the expense of disposition.

In evaluating the alternatives, it appears the value of the fire alarm boxes is much more significant to individuals or institutions that collect such memorabilia for its historical significance. For this reason it is recommended that the boxes be donated to a charitable organization. Because its purpose is to preserve the rich history of the fire service in this region, the Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder Society is the preferred charitable organization under consideration. Founded on April 24, 1990, the Society is chartered as a non-profit public benefit corporation and has requested the donation.

Furthermore, it is recommended that the City retain five percent of the boxes for preservation by the City Archives and/or any other City Department as recommended by the City Manager and that the remaining ninety-five percent be donated to the Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder Society.

**Financial Considerations:**

The Municipal Fire Alarm System Removal Project was identified in the Sacramento Organizational Assessment Project (SOAP) process and is funded in the FY2004/05 budget. Donating the fire alarm boxes imposes no additional expense to the City. The proposed net gain from the proposed sale of said call boxes would hence be in the form of a donation to a public entity according to Sacramento City Code Title 3 Revenue and Finance, Chapter 3.80 Disposition of Surplus Personal Property, Section 3.80.030 Methods of disposition, paragraph F. Donation. By resolution of the City Council, surplus property may be donated to any other public agency or charitable organization exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**Environmental Considerations:**

The Environmental Services Manager has determined that the Municipal Fire Alarm System Removal Project is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines. Exemption 15061(b)(3) consists of an activity covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects, which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.

**Policy Considerations:**

The project is consistent with the City Council's goal of implementing organizational improvements. Additionally, Sacramento City Code Title 3 Revenue and Finance, Chapter 3.80 Disposition of Surplus Personal Property states that by resolution of the City Council, surplus property may be donated to any other public agency or charitable organization exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD):**

No goods or services are being purchased under this report.

Respectfully Submitted by: Gary Henslee  
Gary Henslee, Captain

Approved by: Julius J. Cherry  
Julius J. Cherry  
Fire Chief

Approved by: Steve Ferguson  
Steve Ferguson  
Chief Information Officer

Recommendation Approved:

Robert P. Thomas

ROBERT P. THOMAS  
City Manager

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## Attachment1

## SAMPLE EBAY PRICES OF PULL BOXES

<i>Item</i>	<i>Item #</i>	<i>End Date</i>	<i>Final Bid*</i>
Gamewell pull box	3951979065	1/15/2005	\$182.5
Gamewell pull box	3950520012	1/10/2005	182.5
Gamewell pull box	3950511905	1/9/2005	174.02
Gamewell pull box	3950295642	1/8/2005	152.5
Gamewell pull box	3951407377	1/7/2005	90
Gamewell pull box	3951566960	1/18/2005	202.5
Gamewell pull box	3952010313	1/17/2005	100
Gamewell pull box	3952009757	1/17/2005	122.5
Gamewell pull box	3951862121	1/16/2005	168.05
Gamewell pull box	3951866203	1/16/2005	199
Gamewell pull box	3951819485	1/16/2005	152.5
Gamewell pull box	3953883363	open	10.6
Total			\$1737.12
Average Price			\$144.76

\*Bid prices may vary based on condition of boxes  
it was previously sent thru "Clerk Submit" on September 20 and I have not heard anything

**RESOLUTION NO. 2005-**

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

October 11, 2005

**APPROVING THE DONATION OF MUNICIPAL FIRE ALARM STREET BOXES TO  
THE PIONEER MUTUAL HOOK AND LADDER SOCIETY**

**BACKGROUND**

- A. The City Municipal Fire Alarm System was originally established in the 1930's and consists of 562 fire alarm/street call boxes located throughout the City.
- B. On February 1, 2005, the City Council was briefed on the City Municipal Fire Alarm System Removal Project that includes the removal of the fire alarm/street call boxes.
- C. The Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder Society, founded on April 24, 1990, is a non-profit public benefit corporation exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code with the express purpose of preserving the history of area fire fighting.
- D. The Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder Society has offered to store and market the call boxes and use the proceeds to further its purpose, thereby relieving the City the expense of disposition of the surplus alarm boxes.

**BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL  
RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

- Section 1. The City Manager is authorized to donate surplus municipal fire alarm boxes to the Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder Society.
- Section 2. The City will retain five percent of the boxes for preservation by City Archives and/or any other City Department as recommended by the City Manager and that the remaining ninety-five percent of the boxes will be donated to the Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder Society.