

*Public Opinion Survey of
Salt Lake City Registered Voters
Regarding Crime
And Police Response to Burglar Alarms*

MAY 2006

for

ALARM INDUSTRY RESEARCH &
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

by

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TABLE of CONTENTS

	Page
Summary and Observations	3
Detailed Findings	6
Length of Time Lived in Salt Lake City	7
Concern about Crime in Salt Lake City	7
Crime Experience and Reporting	8
Awareness of Ordinance on Police Response to Burglar Alarms	10
Approval of the Salt Lake City Ordinance	10
Feelings of Protection Since Ordinance Took Effect	13
Feelings of Safety Since Ordinance Took Effect	14
Assessment of Security and Police Response Scenarios	15
Whether Police Should Respond to Alarm Signals without Waiting For a Crime to Be Verified	20
Influence on Vote	25
Influence on Property Values	28
Influence on Business Owners' Choice of Location	29
Influence on Choice of Place to Live and Work	30
Approval of Government Employees' Travel to Other Cities to Promote This Type of Ordinance	33
Scenario: Alone and Unable to Reach Phone or Panic Button	34
Willingness to Be Interviewed Again	35
Demographics	36
Questionnaire (includes total sample percentages)	37

SUMMARY AND OBSERVATIONS

Registered voters in Salt Lake City, surveyed in May, reacted with surprise and widespread disapproval to news of a six-year old city ordinance that police will respond to a burglar alarm only if someone on the scene can verify that a crime is being committed.

Only 20% of registered voters surveyed were aware that Salt Lake City has this ordinance. When told that this ordinance exists, 65% disapproved and only 28% approved. Those who strongly disapproved outnumber those who strongly approved by a 4-to-1 margin.

The survey by Bisconti Research included a total of 515 randomly selected registered voters in Salt Lake City who were interviewed by telephone May 4 to 20, 2006. The margin of error for a sample of 515 is plus or minus five percentage points.

Of those surveyed:

- 44% reported having a burglar alarm; in this report, findings for those with burglar alarms are shown under the heading "Total With Alarms."
- 24% said that they have an alarm at home; findings for this subgroup are shown under the heading "Alarm at Home."
- 15% said that they have an alarm at work; findings for this subgroup are shown under the heading "Alarm at Work."
- (Some would not say if the alarm was at home or work)

The survey found no major differences between those with and without alarms. Disapproval of the ordinance was widespread across all survey groups and subgroups.

Highlights include:

- 80% of registered voters are concerned about crime.
- More than 1-in-4 registered voters (28%) has been a victim of a break-in or burglary in Salt Lake City. Most of these crimes were reported, but a significant number were not.
- Only 20% of registered voters are aware that Salt Lake City has an ordinance that police will respond to a burglar alarm only if someone on the scene can verify that a crime is being committed.
- By 65% to 28%, voters in this city disapprove of the ordinance; 70% of those with an opinion disapprove of the ordinance. Disapproval is high among all registered voters, whether alarm customers or not.

- Majorities in all demographic groups disapprove of the ordinance. Slightly more women than men disapprove. Business owners disapprove the most (77%).
- 30% of residents feel less well protected since the ordinance went into effect in 2000. Only 10% feel better protected. The rest either see no difference in protection or were unsure.
- Only 8% feel safer living in Salt Lake City now compared with five years ago; 33% feel less safe.
- The vast majority agree that a burglar would be less likely to break in if he knew police responded to alarm system signals – 78% of registered voters agree versus only 18% who disagree. Majorities in all demographic groups believe that a private guard is not as effective as police responding to alarm systems. Only 34% consider private guards as effective.
- There is agreement among all demographic groups that a burglar would be less likely to break in if he knew police responded to alarm system signals. More women (80%) than men (74%) agree on this point. Business owners (84%) agree the most strongly.
- Few agreed with the statement that police services and crime prevention efforts have improved since the police stopped responding to alarm systems. This was true over all demographic groups. Residents who have lived in Salt Lake City for 7+ years were more likely to disagree with the statement than those who have lived there less than 7 years.
- Registered voters (70% overall and 85% of those who gave an opinion) believe that police should respond to alarm signals without waiting for a crime to be verified:
 - 48% said that the police should respond regardless of whether the cost could be covered by permits and fines paid by alarm system users,
 - 22% would require that police respond if the cost could be covered by permits and fines,
 - 12% believe that police should not be required to respond unless a crime is verified, and
 - 18% were not sure.
- The majority in all demographic groups would vote for a candidate who rejected the ordinance (60%) over one who would keep it (20%). Business owners (74%) and younger people (70%) were most likely to vote for a candidate who rejected the ordinance.

- 51% of registered voters believe that police response to burglar alarms does not affect property values; however, 38% of registered voters overall and 43% of those who have alarms in their homes believe that property values would increase if the ordinance were rescinded.
- Business owners would choose to locate in a city that provided immediate police response over one that did not by a 7-to-1 margin (73% versus 10%). Among business owners who gave an opinion, 88% would choose to locate their business in a location that provided immediate police response.
- Registered voters would choose to live and work in a city that provided immediate police response to burglar alarms versus a city with an ordinance like Salt Lake City's by 68% to 12%. Of those with an opinion, 85% would choose to live and work in a city that provided immediate police response.
- The majority disapprove of Salt Lake City government employees promoting the adoption of this type of ordinance in other cities – 25% approved, 62% disapproved, and 14% were unsure.
- Given a scenario in which they are alone during a break-in and unable to get to a phone or panic button to verify that a crime is being committed, 25% of those with alarms feel that they could count on the police to respond promptly to protect them. Of those who have an alarm at work, 14% believe they could count on the police in this situation.

Conclusion

The survey reveals important potential impacts of the ordinance that requires police to respond to a burglar alarm only if someone on the scene can verify that a crime is being committed. The survey findings suggest that the issue is ripe with negative implications for public confidence, voting behavior, and the willingness of businesses and potential homeowners to locate in Salt Lake City.

DETAILED FINDINGS

Length of Time Lived in Salt Lake City

Most Salt Lake City registered voters have lived in the area for 7 or more years. Thus, they are able to compare their perceptions of the crime situation before and after the ordinance went into effect that police will respond to a burglar alarm only if someone on the scene can verify that a crime is being committed. The ordinance went into effect in 2000.

“How long have you lived in Salt Lake City?”

	<i>Percentages</i>			
	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
1-2 years	6	8	8	9
3-6 years	9	8	4	10
7 or more years	85	84	88	81

Concern about Crime in Salt Lake City

Most registered voters (80%) are concerned about crime in Salt Lake City, and 41% are very concerned.

“How concerned are you about crime in Salt Lake City – very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?”

	<i>Percentages</i>			
	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Concerned	80	80	80	82
Not concerned	19	20	20	18
Very concerned	41	42	47	38
Somewhat concerned	39	39	33	44
Not too concerned	15	15	15	16
Not at all concerned	4	5	5	3
Don't know, refused	1	0	1	0

Crime Experience and Reporting

More than 1-in-5 registered voters has been the victim of a break-in or burglary either at home or at the workplace in this city: 22% at home and 11% at the workplace. While the difference is not significant, alarm customers reported slightly higher than average rates of break-ins and burglaries, as alarm customers tend to be in areas or types of residences that require more protective measures.

Most reported the crime, but a significant number did not—12% in the case of home break-ins or burglaries and 13% for burglaries at the workplace.

“Has your home or workplace been the victim of a break-in or burglary here in Salt Lake City?”

Percentages

	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Yes, home	22	27	29	22
Yes, workplace	11	17	10	26
No	72	63	66	58
Don't know, refused	0	0	1	0

IF YES, HOME: “Was the crime at your home reported to the Salt Lake City Police Department?”

Percentages

	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Yes	86	84	94	71
No	12	13	6	24
Don't know, refused	2	3	0	6

IF YES, WORKPLACE: “Was the crime at your workplace reported to the Salt Lake City Police Department?”

Percentages

	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Yes	84	90	83	95
No	13	8	8	5
Don't know, refused	4	3	8	0

Almost everyone said they would report a home burglary to the police.

“If you came home and found an actual burglary and your home damaged and property stolen, would you report the crime to the police?”

Percentages

	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Yes	98	99	98	100
No	1	0	1	0
(Don't know, refused)	1	0	1	0

Half the registered voters (51%) said that someone else they know personally has been the victim of a break-in or burglary in Salt Lake City.

“Has the home or workplace of someone else you know personally been the victim of a break-in or burglary here in Salt Lake City?”

Percentages

	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Yes	51	54	51	53
No	48	45	48	46
Don't know, refused	2	2	1	1

Awareness of Salt Lake City Ordinance on Police Response to Burglar Alarms

Only 20% of registered voters were aware that Salt Lake City has an ordinance that police will respond to a burglar alarm only if someone on the scene can verify that a crime is being committed.

“Were you aware that Salt Lake City has an ordinance that police will respond to a burglar alarm only if someone on the scene can verify that a crime is being committed?”

Percentages

	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Yes	20	22	24	18
No	78	77	74	81
Don't know, refused	2	2	3	1

Approval of the Salt Lake City Ordinance

By 65% to 28%, registered voters in this city disapprove of the ordinance that police will respond to a burglar alarm only if someone on the scene can verify that a crime is being committed. Disapproval is high among all registered voters, whether alarm customers or not. Of those with an opinion, 70% disapprove.

Strong disapproval outweighs strong approval by 4-to-1.

“As a result of this ordinance, police will respond to a burglar alarm only if someone on the scene can verify that a crime is being committed. Would you say that you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of this ordinance?”

Percentages

	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Approve	28	24	29	18
Disapprove	65	70	66	74
Strongly approve	8	6	7	7
Somewhat approve	19	18	22	12
Somewhat disapprove	31	35	33	36
Strongly disapprove	33	36	33	38
Don't know, refused	8	6	6	8

**Approval of the Salt Lake City Ordinance
(Excluding Don't Know)**

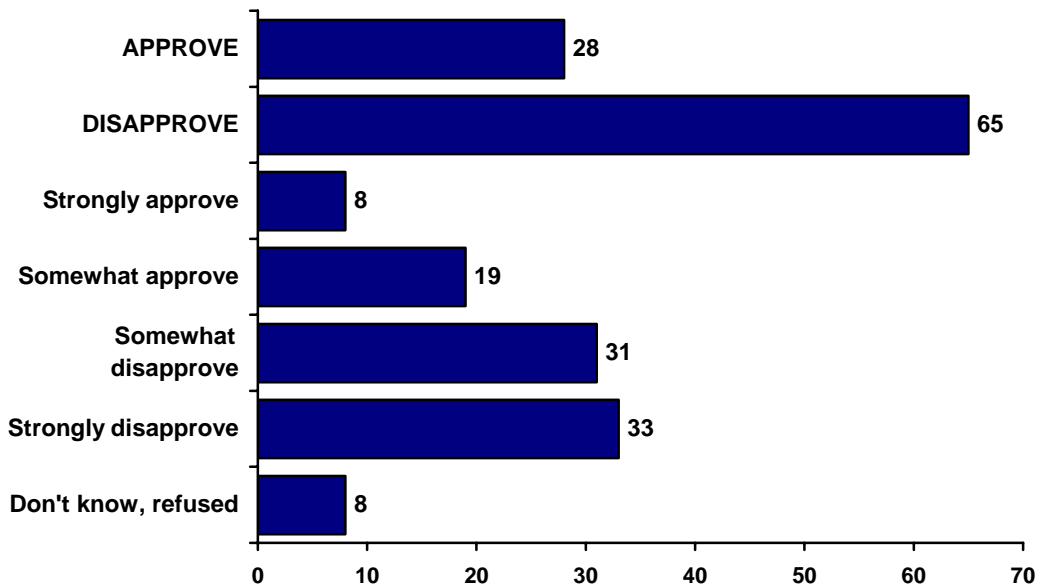
Percentages

	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Approve	30	27	31	24
Disapprove	70	73	70	76
Strongly approve	9	6	7	7
Somewhat approve	22	21	24	17
Somewhat disapprove	34	37	35	38
Strongly disapprove	36	37	35	38

Approval of the Salt Lake City Ordinance

“As a result of this ordinance, police will respond to a burglar alarm only if someone on the scene can verify that a crime is being committed. Would you say that you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of this ordinance?”

Percentages



Approval of the Salt Lake City Ordinance: Demographics

Majorities in all demographic groups disapprove of the ordinance. Slightly more women than men disapprove. Business owners disapprove the most (77%).

“As a result of this ordinance, police will respond to a burglar alarm only if someone on the scene can verify that a crime is being committed. Would you say that you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of this ordinance?”

Percentages

	Approve	Disapprove
<u>All adults</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>65</u>
Men	31	62
Women	25	66
Age:		
18-24	32	68
25-34	17	72
35-44	30	65
45-54	25	67
55-64	26	64
65+	35	55
Residency:		
Less than 7 years	19	61
7+ years	27	65
Victim of break-in:		
Yes, home	27	66
Yes, work	24	73
Business owner	20	77
Democrat	33	61
Republican	26	67
Independent	25	67

Feelings of Protection Since Ordinance Took Effect

A question was asked about how voters feel about police protection since 2000, the year the ordinance came into effect. Only 10% feel better protected. Another 30% feel less well protected. The rest either see no difference in protection or could not answer.

“The ordinance came into effect in the year 2000. Since then, do you think that the people of Salt Lake City are better protected by the Police Department, less well protected by the Police Department, or is there no difference?”

Percentages

	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Better protected	10	9	14	3
Less well protected	30	33	30	36
No difference	48	47	45	48
(Don't know, refused)	12	12	12	13

Feelings of Protection Since Ordinance Took Effect (Excluding Don't Know)

Percentages

	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Better protected	11	10	16	4
Less well protected	34	36	33	40
No difference	55	54	51	56

Feelings of Safety Since Ordinance Took Effect

Only 8% feel safer living in Salt Lake City now compared with five years ago; 33% feel less safe.

“Compared to five years ago, do you feel safer living in Salt Lake City, less safe living in Salt Lake City, or about the same?”

Percentages

	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Safer	8	7	8	4
Less safe	33	37	41	33
About the same	55	50	47	55
Wasn't here then	4	5	3	9
(Don't know, refused)	1	0	1	0

Assessment of Security and Police Response Scenarios

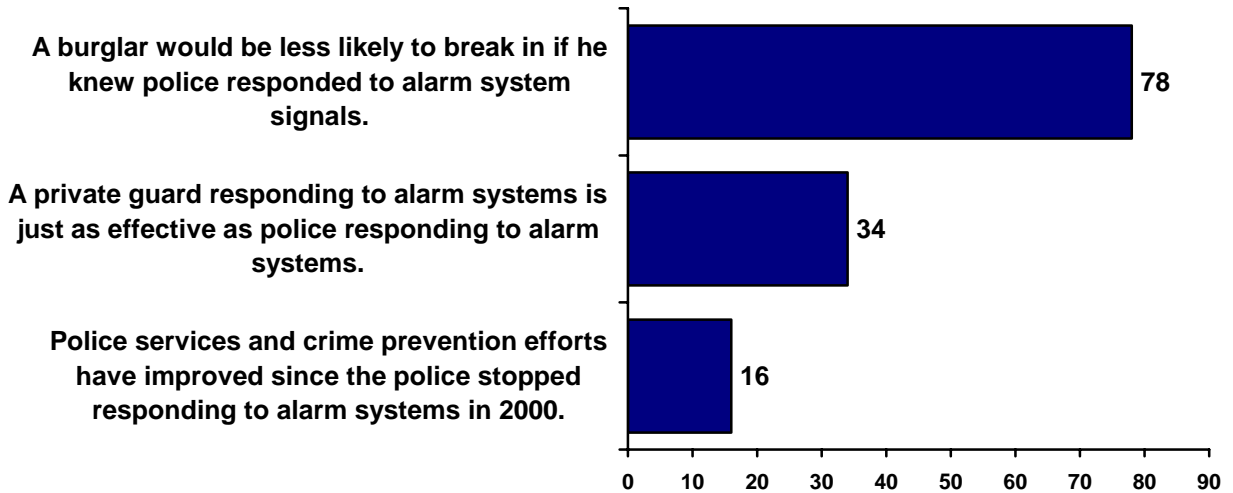
The vast majority agree that a burglar would be less likely to break in if he knew police responded to alarm system signals – 78% of registered voters agree versus only 18% who disagree. Majorities believe that a private guard is not as effective as police responding to alarm systems. Only 34% consider private guards as effective, and only 16% thought that police services and crime prevention have improved since 2000 (many were unsure).

“Please tell me if you tend to agree or disagree with the following points.”

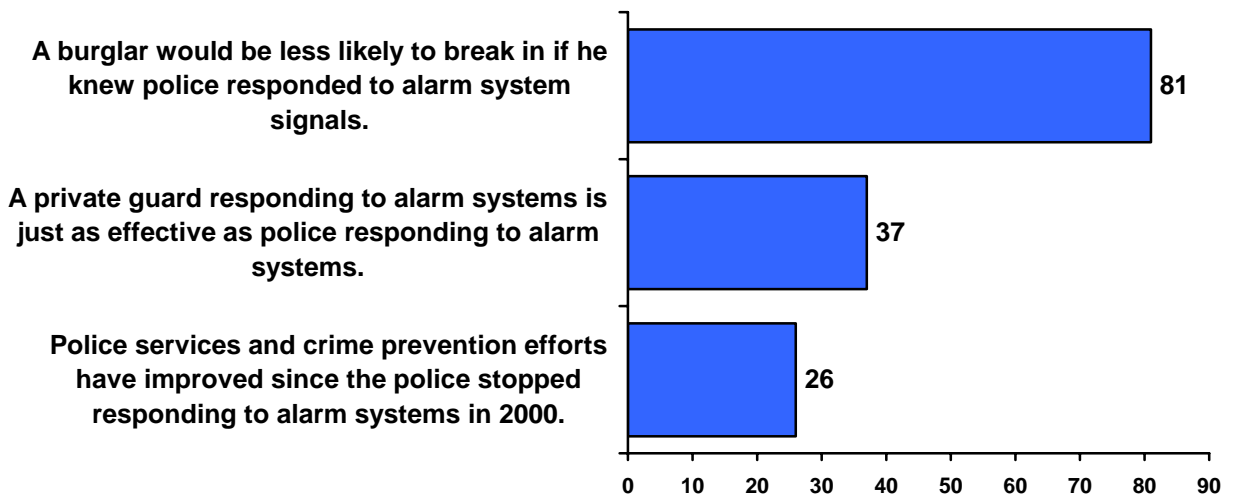
	<i>Percentages</i>			
	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
A burglar would be less likely to break in if he knew police responded to alarm system signals.				
Agree	78	80	78	81
Disagree	18	17	17	18
(Don't know, refused)	4	3	5	1
A private guard responding to alarm systems is just as effective as police responding to alarm systems.				
Agree	34	32	36	27
Disagree	56	61	54	69
(Don't know, refused)	10	7	10	4
Police services and crime prevention efforts have improved since the police stopped responding to alarm systems in 2000.				
Agree	16	16	22	8
Disagree	50	52	47	62
(Don't know, refused)	34	32	31	30

Percent Agree With Statements about Alarm Systems and Police Services

“Please tell me if you tend to agree or disagree with the following points?”



Percent Agree With Statements about Alarm Systems and Police Services (Excluding Don't know)



Assessment of Security and Police Response Scenarios: Demographics

There is agreement among all demographic groups that a burglar would be less likely to break in if he knew police responded to alarm system signals. More women (80%) than men (74%) agree on this point. Business owners (84%) agree the most strongly.

“Please tell me if you tend to agree or disagree with the following points.”

- **A burglar would be less likely to break in if he knew police responded to alarm system signals.**

	<i>Percentages</i>	
	Agree	Disagree
<u>All adults</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>18</u>
Men	74	21
Women	80	16
Age:		
18-24	78	22
25-34	82	15
35-44	71	23
45-54	78	20
55-64	74	24
65+	82	9
Residency:		
Less than 7 years	73	22
7+ years	78	18
Victim of break-in:		
Yes, home	72	21
Yes, work	75	24
Business owner	84	13
Democrat	78	18
Republican	85	14
Independent	78	19

Assessment of Security and Police Response Scenarios: Demographics

Majorities in all demographic groups disagree with the statement that a private guard is just as effective as police responding to alarm systems.

“Please tell me if you tend to agree or disagree with the following points.”

- **A private guard responding to alarm systems is just as effective as police responding to alarm systems.**

	<i>Percentages</i>	
	Agree	Disagree
<u>All adults</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>56</u>
Men	39	55
Women	31	57
Age:		
18-24	44	56
25-34	42	52
35-44	25	70
45-54	30	57
55-64	36	51
65+	30	55
Residency:		
Less than 7 years	36	57
7+ years	34	56
Victim of break-in:		
Yes, home	39	52
Yes, work	29	64
Business owner	31	57
Democrat	30	55
Republican	39	55
Independent	34	57

Assessment of Security and Police Response Scenarios: Demographics

Few agreed with the statement that police services and crime prevention efforts have improved since the police stopped responding to alarm systems. This was true over all demographic groups. Residents who have lived in Salt Lake City at least 7 years were more likely to disagree with the statement than those who have lived there less than 7 years.

“Please tell me if you tend to agree or disagree with the following points.”

- **Police services and crime prevention efforts have improved since the police stopped responding to alarm systems in 2000.**

Percentages

	Agree	Disagree
<u>All adults</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>50</u>
Men	16	53
Women	17	47
Age:		
18-24	24	54
25-34	19	47
35-44	17	52
45-54	7	59
55-64	10	46
65+	21	43
Residency:		
Less than 7 years	22	38
7+ years	15	52
Victim of break-in:		
Yes, home	15	48
Yes, work	7	66
Business owner	17	49
Democrat	11	49
Republican	18	50
Independent	16	51

**Whether Police Should Respond to Alarm Signals
Without Waiting for a Crime to Be Verified**

The majority of registered voters (70%) believe that police should respond to alarm signals without waiting for a crime to be verified; 48% believe that the police should respond regardless of whether the cost could be covered by permits and fines paid by alarm system users, and 22% would require that police respond if the cost could be covered by permits and fines. Of those who have an opinion, 85% believe that police should respond without waiting for a crime to be verified.

“Which statement is closest to your opinion?”

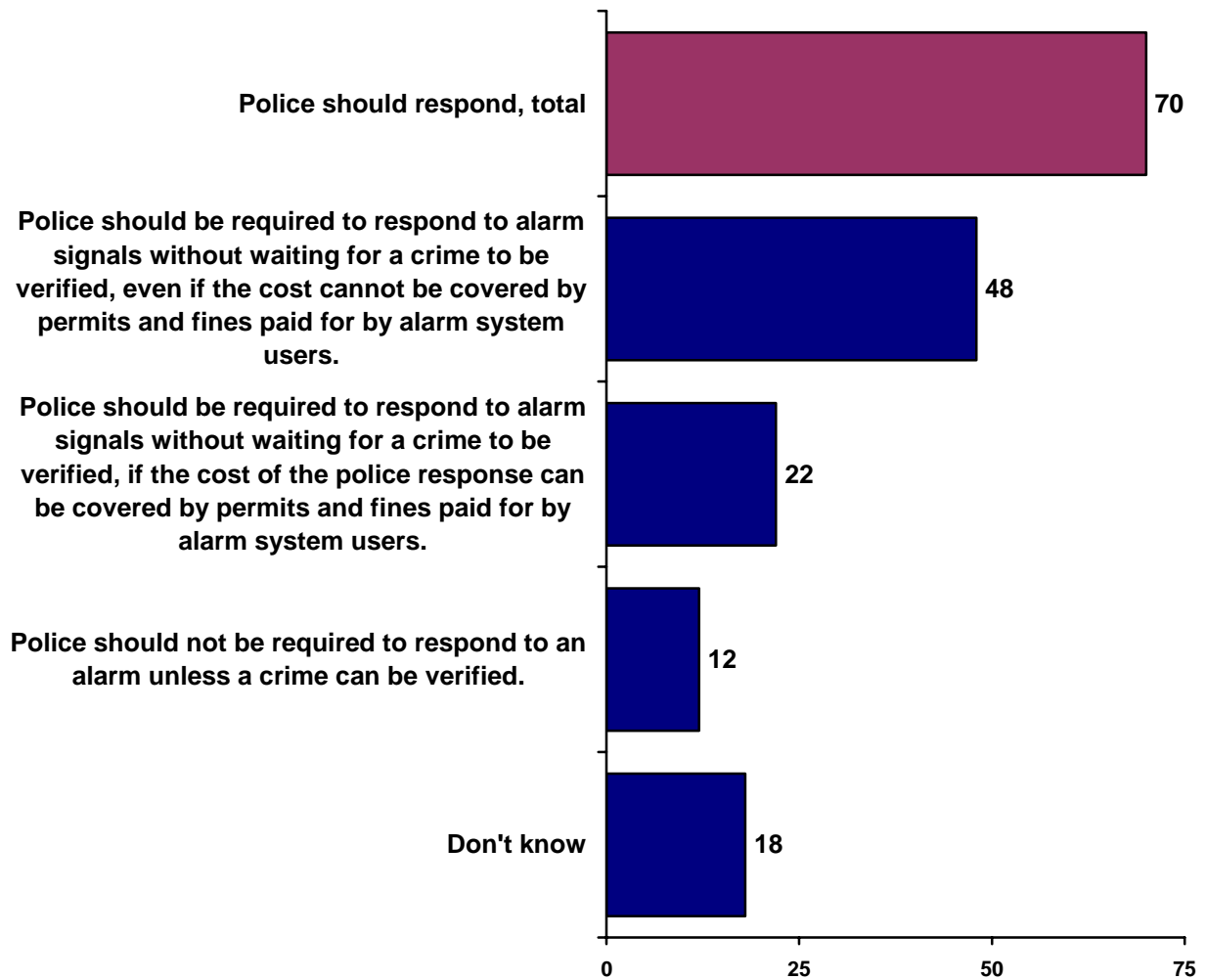
	<i>Percentages</i>			
	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Police should be required to respond to alarm signals without waiting for a crime to be verified, even if the cost cannot be covered by permits and fines paid for by alarm system users.	48	50	48	56
Police should be required to respond to alarm signals without waiting for a crime to be verified, if the cost of police response can be covered by permits and fines paid for by alarm system users.	22	20	17	22
Police should not be required to respond to an alarm unless a crime can be verified.	12	12	14	9
(Don't know, refused)	18	19	21	13

**Whether Police Should Respond to Alarm Signals
Without Waiting for a Crime to Be Verified
(Excluding Don't Know)**

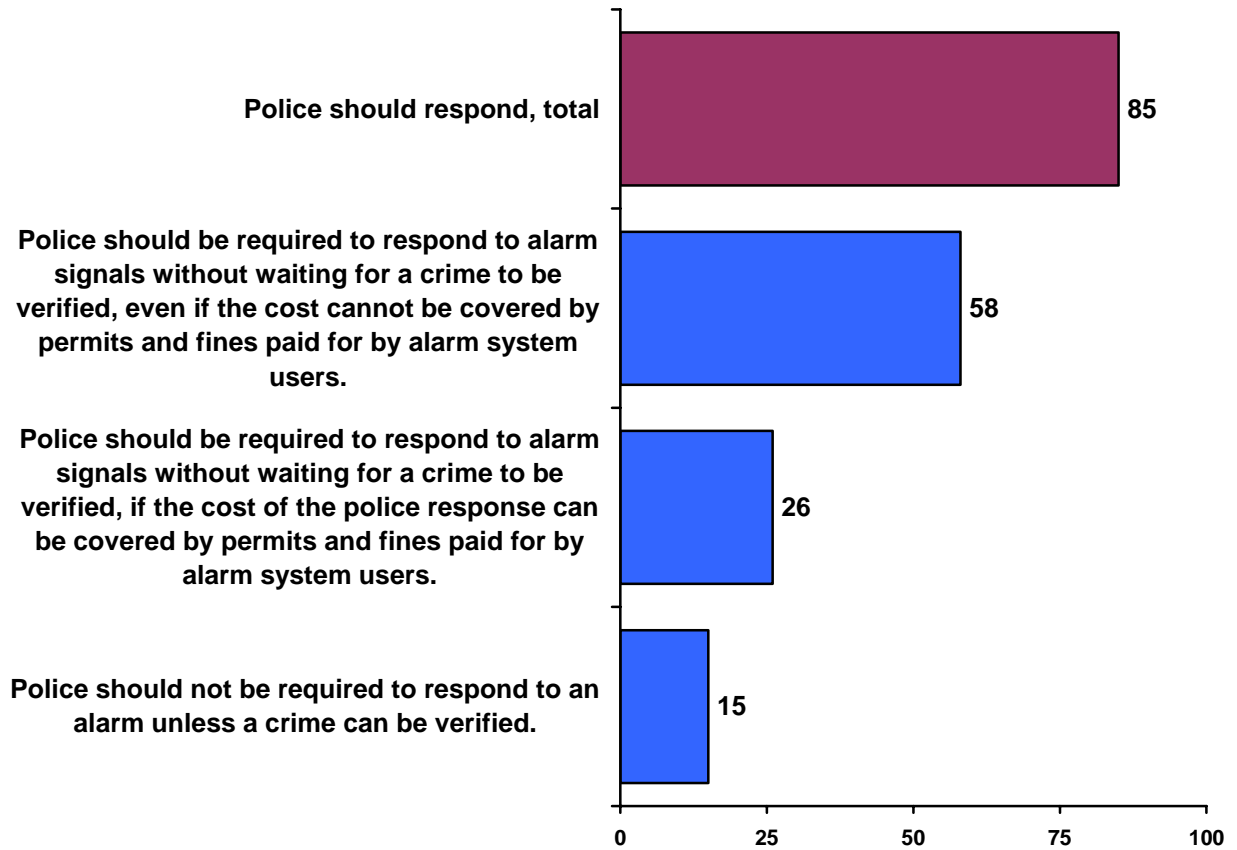
	<i>Percentages</i>			
	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Police should be required to respond to alarm signals without waiting for a crime to be verified, even if the cost cannot be covered by permits and fines paid for by alarm system users.	58	60	60	65
Police should be required to respond to alarm signals without waiting for a crime to be verified, if the cost of police response can be covered by permits and fines paid for by alarm system users.	26	24	22	24
Police should not be required to respond to an alarm unless a crime can be verified.	15	16	18	11

Whether Police Should Respond to Alarm Signals Without Waiting for a Crime to Be Verified

“Which statement is closest to your opinion?”



**Whether Police Should Respond to Alarm Signals
Without Waiting for a Crime to Be Verified
(Excluding Don't Know)**



**Whether Police Should Respond to Alarm Signals
Without Waiting for a Crime to Be Verified:
Demographics**

"Which statement is closest to your opinion?"

1. Police should be required to respond to alarm signals without waiting for a crime to be verified, even if the cost cannot be covered by permits and fines paid for by alarm system users.
2. Police should be required to respond to alarm signals without waiting for a crime to be verified, if the cost of police response can be covered by permits and fines paid for by alarm system users.
3. Police should not be required to respond to an alarm unless a crime can be verified.

	1.	2.	3.
<u>All adults</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>12</u>
Men	51	21	13
Women	45	23	12
Age:			
18-24	46	25	12
25-34	51	20	16
35-44	46	25	10
45-54	41	29	12
55-64	51	22	13
65+	50	15	11
Residency:			
Less than 7 years	51	18	18
7+ years	47	22	11
Victim of break-in:			
Yes, home	53	22	12
Yes, work	53	26	11
Business owner	44	20	16
Democrat	44	22	14
Republican	47	28	10
Independent	49	26	13

Influence on Vote

By a margin of 3-to-1, Salt Lake City registered voters would vote for a candidate who rejected the ordinance (60%) over one who would keep it (20%). Both those with and without alarms expressed this view.

“In the next election, for whom you be more inclined to vote? A candidate who would keep the ordinance that allows police to respond to a burglar alarm only if a crime is verified? Or a candidate who would reject that ordinance?”

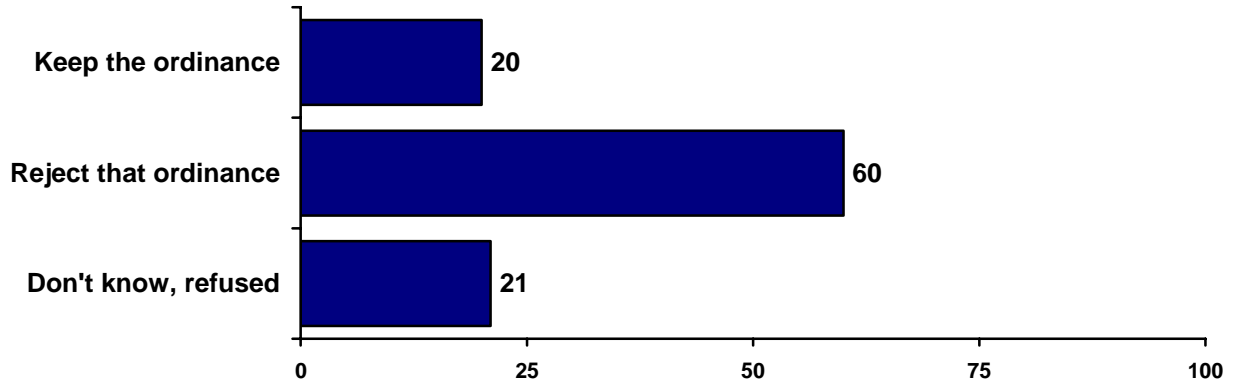
	<i>Percentages</i>			
	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Keep the ordinance	20	20	25	13
Reject the ordinance	60	61	58	66
(Don't know, refused)	21	20	17	21

Influence on Vote (Excluding Don't Know)

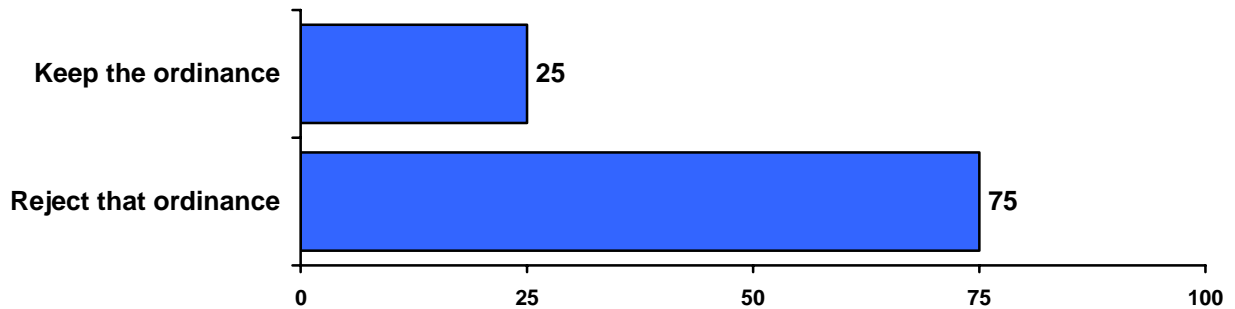
	<i>Percentages</i>			
	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Keep the ordinance	25	26	30	19
Reject the ordinance	75	74	70	82

**Percent Inclined to Vote for a Candidate
Based on Whether They Would Keep or Reject the Crime Ordinance**

“In the next election, for whom would you be more inclined to vote? A candidate who would keep the ordinance that allows police to respond to a burglar alarm only if a crime is verified? Or a candidate who would reject that ordinance?”



**Percent Inclined to Vote for a Candidate
Based on Whether They Would Keep or Reject the Crime Ordinance
(Excluding Don't Know)**



Influence on Vote: Demographics

Business owners and younger voters were most likely to vote for a candidate who rejected the ordinance.

“In the next election, for whom you be more inclined to vote? A candidate who would keep the ordinance that allows police to respond to a burglar alarm only if a crime is verified? Or a candidate who would reject that ordinance?”

	<i>Percentages</i>	
	Keep The Ordinance	Reject The Ordinance
<u>All adults</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>60</u>
Men	20	61
Women	20	58
Age:		
18-24	19	70
25-34	14	67
35-44	22	55
45-54	18	57
55-64	19	58
65+	27	55
Residency:		
Less than 7 years	21	56
7+ years	20	60
Victim of break-in:		
Yes, home	18	59
Yes, work	15	64
Business owner	8	74
Democrat	21	56
Republican	20	60
Independent	21	65

Influence on Property Values

Half (51%) of registered voters believe that property values would not be affected if police resumed full response to burglar alarms. However, 38% thought that property values would increase; 43% of those with alarms thought property values would increase.

“If police resumed full response to burglar alarms, do you think your property value would increase, decrease or stay the same?”

Percentages

	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Increase	38	43	46	34
Decrease	4	3	3	3
Stay the same	51	49	44	57
(Don't know, refused)	8	6	7	7

Influence on Property Values (Excluding Don't Know)

Percentages

	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Increase	41	45	49	37
Decrease	4	3	4	3
Stay the same	56	52	47	61

Influence on Business Owners' Choice of Location

Business owners would choose to locate in a city that provided immediate police response over one that did not by an overwhelming majority (73% versus 10%). When excluding those who don't know the answer to this question, 88% of business owners would choose to locate their business in a location that provided immediate police response.

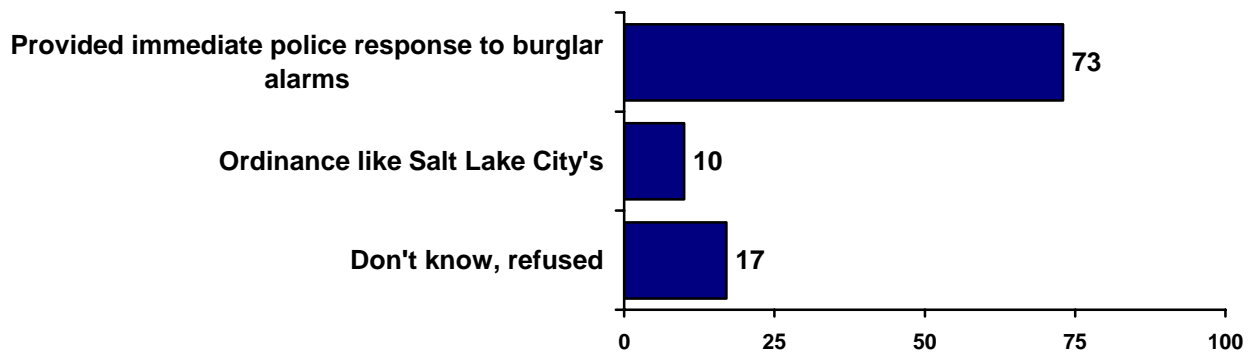
A total of 77 business owners were included in the survey sample. They were asked the following question:

"As a business owner, if all other factors were equal, would you choose to locate your business in a city that provided immediate police response to burglar alarms or a city with an ordinance like Salt Lake City's?"

	Percent	Percent Without Don't Know
Provided immediate police response to burglar alarms	73	88
Ordinance like Salt Lake City's	10	12
(Don't know, refused)	17	--

Whether Immediate Police Response Would Influence Business Owners' Choice of Location

"As a business owner, if all other factors were equal, would you choose to locate your business in a city that provided immediate police response to burglar alarms or a city with an ordinance like Salt Lake City's?"



Influence on Choice of Place to Live and Work

Registered voters by 68% to 12% would choose to live and work in a city that provided immediate police response to burglar alarms versus a city with an ordinance like Salt Lake City’s. When excluding those without an opinion, 85% would choose to live and work in a city that provided immediate police response.

“If you had a choice of places to live and work, would you choose a city that provided immediate police response to burglar alarms or a city with an ordinance like Salt Lake City’s?”

Percentages

	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Provided immediate police response to burglar alarms	68	70	67	71
Ordinance like Salt Lake City’s	12	12	13	12
(Don’t know, refused)	19	19	20	17

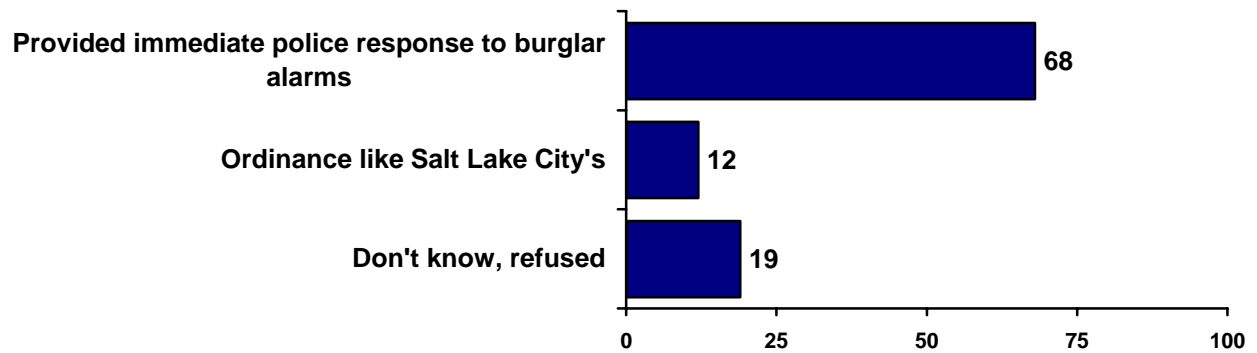
Whether Immediate Police Response Would Influence Choice of Place to Live and Work (Excluding Don’t Know)

Percentages

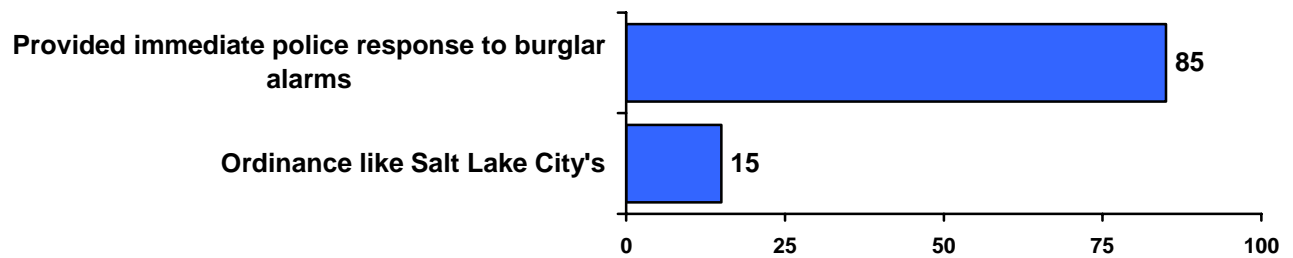
	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Provided immediate police response to burglar alarms	85	86	84	87
Ordinance like Salt Lake City’s	15	14	16	13

Whether Immediate Police Response Would Influence Choice of Place to Live and Work

“If you had a choice of places to live and work, would you choose a city that provided immediate police response to burglar alarms or a city with an ordinance like Salt Lake City’s?”



Whether Immediate Police Response Would Influence Choice of Place to Live and Work (Excluding Don't Know)



Influence on Choice of Place to Live and Work: Demographics

“If you had a choice of places to live and work, would you choose a city that provided immediate police response to burglar alarms or a city with an ordinance like Salt Lake City’s?”

Percentages

	Provide Immediate Police Response	Ordinance Like Salt Lake City’s
<u>All adults</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>12</u>
Men	67	14
Women	70	11
Age:		
18-24	75	9
25-34	62	14
35-44	73	16
45-54	68	10
55-64	71	13
65+	71	12
Residency:		
Less than 7 years	70	10
7+ years	68	13
Victim of break-in:		
Yes, home	70	10
Yes, work	73	9
Business owner	74	10
Democrat	66	13
Republican	71	12
Independent	71	12

**Approval of Government Employees' Travel to Other Cities to
Promote This Type of Ordinance**

The majority of registered voters disapprove of Salt Lake City government employees promoting the adoption of this type of ordinance in other cities--71% disapproved and 29% approved (excluding don't know).

The level of approval on this question is low but higher than would be expected based on response to other questions. It is possible that the term "this activity" (see question below) was not specific enough and that some who disapproved of the ordinance in Salt Lake City were telling us that it was alright for other cities to have one.

"Salt Lake City government employees on a number of occasions have traveled to other cities in order to promote the adoption of this type of ordinance so that other cities would only respond to alarms after a crime has been verified. Do you approve or disapprove of this activity outside Salt Lake City?"

Percentages

	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Approve	25	27	26	25
Disapprove	62	62	61	66
(Don't know, refused)	14	12	13	9

**Approval of Government Employees' Travel to Other Cities to
Promote This Type of Ordinance (Excluding Don't Know)**

Percentages

	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Approve	29	31	30	28
Disapprove	71	69	70	72

Scenario: Alone and Unable to Reach Phone or Panic Button

Because of the need for on-site verification that a crime is being committed, one break-in scenario that could pose a problem would involve a victim who was alone and unable to get to a phone or panic button to verify a crime. Those surveyed who said they have alarms were asked about this scenario.

With this scenario, 25% of those with burglar alarms feel that they could count on the police to respond promptly enough to protect them. Of those who have an alarm at work, only 14% believe they could count on the police.

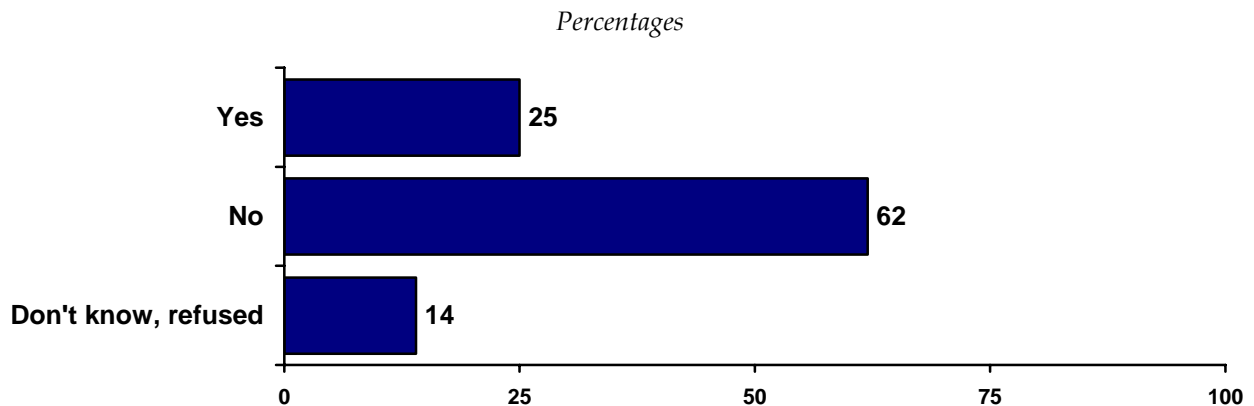
“If you were alone when a burglar broke in and unable to get to the phone or a panic button, do you feel you could count on police responding promptly enough to protect you?”

Percentages

	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Yes	25	35	14
No	62	52	73
(Don't know, refused)	13	13	13

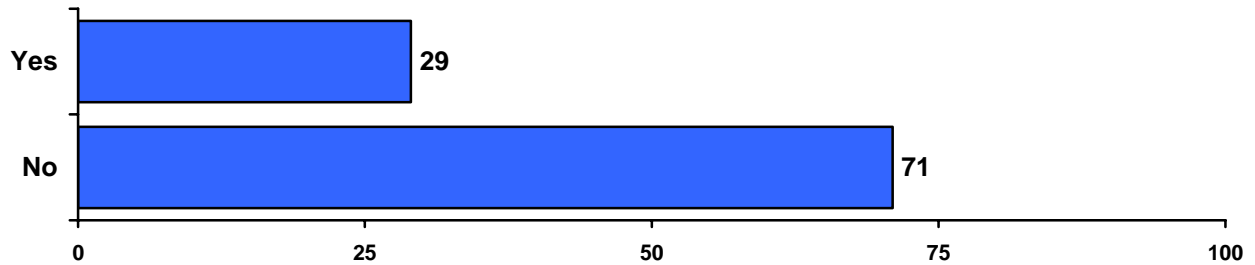
Confidence the Police Would Respond Promptly to a Burglar Alarm If One Were Alone and Unable to Reach the Phone or Panic Button

“If you were alone when a burglar broke in and unable to get to the phone or a panic button, do you feel you could count on police responding promptly enough to protect you?”



**Confidence the Police Would Respond Promptly to a Burglar Alarm
If One Were Alone and Unable to Reach the Phone or Panic Button
(Excluding Don't Know)**

Percentages



Willingness to be Interviewed Again

“Would you be willing to be interviewed again in the future on this subject or participate in a focus group?”

Percentages

	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Yes	45	49	43	56
No	53	47	52	40
(Don't know, refused)	3	4	5	4

Demographics

"Is your age ..."

Percentages

	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
18 to 24	12	12	12	13
25 to 34	18	22	17	29
35 to 44	13	13	11	16
45 to 54	19	23	23	26
55 to 64	14	15	16	14
65 or older	20	13	20	1
(Don't know, refused)	3	2	2	1

"Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as ..." (READ LIST. ROTATE. CHECK ONLY ONE RESPONSE.)

Percentages

	Total Registered Voters	Total With Alarms	Alarm At Home	Alarm At Work
Republican	32	33	34	35
Independent	24	26	23	25
Democrat	23	20	23	20
None of the above	14	14	13	16
(Don't know, refused)	7	7	7	5

QUESTIONNAIRE

BISCONTI RESEARCH, INC.

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TEL: 202.347.8820 ♦ FAX: 202.347.8825

<http://www.bisconti.com>

**Public Opinion Survey of
Salt Lake City Residents Regarding Crime**

May 2006

1. How long have you lived in Salt Lake City? (**LESS THAN ONE YEAR, TERMINATE**)

1-2 years	6
3-6 years	9
7 or more years	85

2. How concerned are you about crime in Salt Lake City – very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?

Concerned	80
Not concerned	19
Very concerned	41
Somewhat concerned	39
Not too concerned	15
Not at all concerned	4
(Don't know, refused)	1

3. Has your home or workplace been the victim of a break-in or burglary here in Salt Lake City?

Yes, home	22
Yes, workplace	11
No	72
(Don't know, refused)	0

a. **IF YES, HOME:** Was the crime at your home reported to Salt Lake Police Department?

Yes	86
No	12
(Don't know, refused)	2

b. **IF YES, WORKPLACE:** Was the crime at your workplace reported to Salt Lake Police Department?

Yes	84
No	13
(Don't know, refused)	4

4. Has the home or workplace of someone else you know personally been the victim of a break-in or burglary here in Salt Lake City?

Yes	51
No	48
(Don't know, refused)	2

5. Were you aware that Salt Lake City has an ordinance that police will respond to a burglar alarm only if someone on the scene can verify that a crime is being committed?

Yes	20
No	78
(Don't know, refused)	2

6. As a result of this ordinance, police will respond to a burglar alarm only if someone on the scene can verify that a crime is being committed. Would you say that you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of this ordinance?

Approve	28
Disapprove	65
Strongly approve	8
Somewhat approve	19
Somewhat disapprove	31
Strongly disapprove	33
(Don't know, refused)	8

7. The ordinance came into effect in the year 2000. Since then, do you think that the people of Salt Lake City are better protected by the Police Department, less well protected by the Police Department, or is there no difference?

Better protected	10
Less well protected	30
No difference	48
(Don't know, refused)	12

8. Compared to five years ago, do you feel safer living in Salt Lake City, less safe living in Salt Lake City, or about the same?

Safer	8
Less safe	33
About the same	55
Wasn't here then	4
(Don't know, refused)	1

9. Please tell me if you tend to agree or disagree with the following points. (ROTATE)

- A burglar would be less likely to break in if he knew police responded to alarm system signals.

Agree	78
Disagree	18
(Don't know, refused)	4

- A private guard responding to alarm systems is just as effective as police responding to alarm systems.

Agree	34
Disagree	56
(Don't know, refused)	10

- Police services and crime prevention efforts have improved since the police stopped responding to alarm systems in 2000.

Agree	16
Disagree	50
(Don't know, refused)	34

10. Which statement is closest to your opinion (ROTATE):

Police should be required to respond to alarm signals without waiting for a crime to be verified, even if the cost cannot be covered by permits and fines paid for by alarm system users.	48
---	----

Police should be required to respond to alarm signals without waiting for a crime to be verified, if the cost of police response can be covered by permits and fines paid for by alarm system users.	22
--	----

Police should not be required to respond to an alarm unless a crime can be verified.	12
--	----

(Don't know, refused)	18
-----------------------	----

11. In the next election, for whom would you be more inclined to vote? A candidate who would keep the ordinance that allows police to respond to a burglar alarm only if a crime is verified? Or a candidate who would reject that ordinance?

Keep the ordinance	20
Reject that ordinance	60
(Don't know, refused)	21

12. If police resumed full response to burglar alarms, do you think your property value would increase, decrease or stay the same?

Increase	38
Decrease	4
Stay the same	51
(Don't know, refused)	8

13. Do you own your own business?

Yes	15
No	85
(Don't know, refused)	0

14. **IF YES to Q13:** As a business owner, if all other factors were equal, would you choose to locate your business in a city that provided immediate police response to burglar alarms or a city with an ordinance like Salt Lake City's?

Provided immediate police response to burglar alarms	73
Ordinance like Salt Lake City's	10
(Don't know, refused)	17

15. If you had a choice of places to live and work, would you choose a city that provided immediate police response to burglar alarms or a city with an ordinance like Salt Lake City's?

Provided immediate police response to burglar alarms	68
Ordinance like Salt Lake City's	12
(Don't know, refused)	19

16. Salt Lake City government employees on a number of occasions have traveled to other cities in order to promote the adoption of this type of ordinance so that other cities would only respond to alarms after a crime has been verified. Do you approve or disapprove of this activity outside Salt Lake City?

Approve	25
Disapprove	62
(Don't know, refused)	14

17. If you came home and found an actual burglary and your home damaged and property stolen, would you report the crime to the police?

Yes	98
No	1
(Don't know, refused)	1

18. Do you have a burglar alarm system at your home or workplace?

Yes, at home	24
Yes, at work	15
Yes, not willing to specify	5
No, neither	51
(Don't know, refused)	6

19. If you were alone when a burglar broke in and unable to get to the phone or a panic button, do you feel you could count on police responding promptly enough to protect you?

Yes	25
No	62
(Don't know, refused)	13

20. Would you be willing to be interviewed again in the future on this subject or participate in a focus group?

Yes	45
No	53
(Don't know, refused)	3

IF YES: Record name and contact information_____

21. Is your age ...

18 to 24	12
25 to 34	18
35 to 44	13
45 to 54	19
55 to 64	14
65 or older	20
(Don't know, refused)	3

22. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as ... (READ LIST. ROTATE. CHECK ONLY ONE RESPONSE.)

Republican	32
Independent	24
Democrat	23
None of the above	14
(Don't know, refused)	7

23. RECORD GENDER: **DO NOT ASK**

Male	43
Female	57