

16-1051
11-8

Todd Blaser

From: Jay <jjshore@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Saturday, October 08, 2016 12:28 PM
To: Todd Blaser
Subject: Re: warning siren 'testing'... tblaser@manitowoc.org

Dear Fire Chief Blaser,

You were kind enough a few months back to reply to my letter below with a personal phone call, and our discussion was very much appreciated.

Just to give you an 'update', as we sit here in October, this silly practice is still continuing needlessly. I'm assuming you are in a position to make the final call on 'emergency related' procedures for the City. Until you are able to accomplish your long term goal of getting individual 'radios' in homes, isn't there a way you can just make the reasonable decision to NOT test so frequently? I don't believe the County 'tests' weekly nor even monthly... Why must the City?!?

What is 'magical' about this insane frequency of testing? How about once a quarter? I'd suggest picking a similar schedule that you 'test' other hardware under your jurisdiction...ie, how often are your departments' smoke detectors mandatorily 'tested'? twice a year? Do the sirens have a 'battery' that wears out? Have they EVER not worked, that you're hanging on the edge of your seat expecting them to not function any minute now?

Please please please bring some semblance of sanity to this issue. You're the Fire Chief, so I'd suggest doing what you think is best, and then handle any institutional 'feedback' as you see fit, rather than succumbing to "we've always done it this way"...

In my specific local situation in this dense neighborhood, having this blare at noon on Saturday at a PUBLIC PARK where you intend for families and small children to be, would be comical if it weren't actually happening and true. Rather than just 'discussing' this together, I plead with you to actually stand inside RiverView park when this occurs, and stand there for all 3 minutes. Just once, really stand there, and then you might get a refreshed perspective on this practice that someone arbitrarily decided decades ago was needed, despite its astonishing overkill.

Much appreciated!!! Thanks for your consideration, and hopefully, action. Have a nice weekend!

Jay 920-901-6767

From: Jay <jjshore@sbcglobal.net>
To: "tblaser@manitowoc.org" <tblaser@manitowoc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 6, 2016 1:39 PM
Subject: warning siren 'testing'... tblaser@manitowoc.org

Dear Fire Chief Blaser,

Could you point me in the direction of who I can talk to to find out why the 'alarm test' that they do every noon on Saturday has to stay on for over **three** minutes?

Frankly I think testing it every week loses its effectiveness as people no longer take it seriously as they're so used to hearing it, but that being said, it's really really loud. (anecdotely, it's almost become a joke around town)

We live across the street from it (712 N. 11th - across from Harrigan Funeral Home) and I would think 15-30 seconds is plenty of time to know if it's actually working or not, and three minutes plus, is just ridiculous and excessive. (Ironically, that park's facilities are geared towards little kids, yet every Saturday at noon they get quite a frightening 'blast' that seems to go on forever.)

If you could tell me who to talk to who might be open-minded on this, I would really appreciate it!

Thanks! Jay Muchin 901-6767

ps. I urge any city official who has any 'say' over the length of time this blows, to just once come to the park at noon on Saturday, and try to stand there for the entire 3 minutes+ episode, and then have them determine if this is still a reasonable practice or not. If it takes longer than 15 seconds to know if the horn is 'working', then I suspect we have larger issues. Also, if there ever was a 'real' storm on a Saturday at noon, how would we ever know? would it then sound for 3 minutes and 30 seconds!?! The length of time is absurd. Thanks so much for your help with this! Jay

CITY OF MANITOWOC WARNING SIRENS

