



# NILES POLICE DEPARTMENT

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### For Immediate Release

### Home Alarm System Scam

**Niles, IL** – The Niles Police Department has been notified by Early Warning Alarms Inc., regarding a scam impacting their company, as well as other legitimate alarm companies in the Chicagoland area. According to Early Warning Alarms, subjects are going door to door, telling homeowners that they are affiliated with their alarm company.

The subjects may entice a homeowner to sign a new five year contract by stating the following:

- Their current alarm company went out of business.
- The need to update their security equipment or their contact information.
- The contract change may save them money.

At this time the Niles Police Department has not received reports regarding this type of scam. However, due to the nature of the scam the public should be aware of it. If you have fallen, victim to this scam you are asked to file a police report immediately.

### To prevent this scam from happening to you, we offer these quick tips:

- **Before signing any contracts or changing of services.** Call your current company to confirm, use the phone number on the paperwork you already have. Speak to a family member, or contact your local police department to determine if it may be a potential scam.
- **If they do come to your door.** Ask them for a business card with their company name, their name and phone number on it. If they represent themselves with a business card from your home alarm company you should call the telephone number on your billing statement to verify this is a verified contractor or employee your legitimate alarm service.
- **Sales agents who push their way into your home, or refuse to leave.** It's always safer to say no to someone on your doorstep before they come in, rather than trying to get a salesperson out of your home. Firmly tell the person no. If they continue to pressure you, close the door and call the police.
- **High-pressure or scare tactics.** Limited time offers, and pressure to “act now” to protect yourself from supposed crime sprees in your neighborhood are often signs of a scam. Report it immediately and do not sign any contracts without fully understanding the terms and conditions of the “offered deal”.