

DATE ISSUED: February 21, 2007 REPORT NO.

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of February 28, 2007

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding with the County of
San Diego to Cooperate in Migrating toward a Regional Public
Safety Communications System

SUMMARY

Request the committee to approve and recommend to City Council to authorize the City to enter into an agreement with the County to cooperate in migrating toward a Regional Public Safety Communications System.

BACKGROUND

This ten-year memorandum of understanding defines a shared goal and formalizes the spirit of cooperation between the County of San Diego and the City of San Diego to migrate towards a truly interoperable and seamless Regional Public Safety Communications System.

DISCUSSION

Although the San Diego-Imperial County regional communication network is considered one of the best in the nation, current technology used to support the system is nearing the end of its product life and relevance. The current "patch-through" and "work-around" method is cumbersome and outdated. In addition, vendor support of the county's current 800 MHz system will end in approximately five years, making support for current infrastructure increasingly difficult to maintain. Because the city will be facing similar technological challenges within the next few years, this is an opportune time for city and county agencies to pursue the common goal of improving public safety through investment in a truly seamless regional public safety communications system with the capacity to support future growth.

The City and County have agreed to work in partnership to achieve the convergence of all radio systems to achieve full interoperability with the San Diego/Imperial County region. This interoperable system will be designed to benefit public safety through increased performance, efficiency, capability and quality in two-way radio communications. The project goals will allow for seamless communication between local public safety agencies operating on 700 MHz and 800 MHz spectrum, as well as other public safety agencies operating on different spectrums.

To achieve this goal, the City and County commit to:

- Partner in the planning of our region's new communications technology
- Establishment of a collaborative and unified governance structure to manage the new communications system.
- Jointly identify and pursue project funding
- Partner in the implementation of the upgraded regional communication system
- Achieving a truly interoperable and seamless Regional Public Safety Communications System.

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