

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: April 30, 2001

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: RENEWAL OF CONTRACT BETWEEN VERDUGO FIRE DISPATCH SYSTEM AND THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA FOR FIRE AND AMBULANCE DISPATCH SERVICES

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute the attached agreement between the Verdugo Fire Dispatch System (VFDS), which is jointly administered by the cities of Glendale, Burbank, and Pasadena under a Joint Powers Agreement, and the City of South Pasadena. In addition to renewing the agreement, the annual charges to the City of South Pasadena (including the administrative fee) is increased from the 2000/2001 level of \$37,156 per year to approximately \$56,763 per year by the fifth year of the agreement.

BACKGROUND: The cities of Glendale, Burbank and Pasadena formed the VFDS under a joint powers agreement in 1987. The actual dispatch system is housed in the Verdugo Center, located in Glendale Fire Station 21. It provides a state of the art fire and rescue dispatch service for the three cities which none of them could have afforded separately. Two years ago, the cities of San Marino and South Pasadena joined the VFDS on a contract basis for dispatch services in their cities, paying their pro-rata share of costs based on the number of emergency dispatches VFDS handled for each of those cities. Monrovia, Sierra Madre and Arcadia joined the VFDS in 1999. The City of San Gabriel joined the VFDS in 2000. The City of South Pasadena now wishes to renew its contract with the VFDS for fire and rescue dispatch services and has agreed to an increased charge for services.

The VFDS has more than sufficient capacity to continue such services for current system members and even expansion to other neighboring cities without adding capital equipment and without diminishing the services provided to Pasadena and the other VFDS member cities. Having cities surrounding Pasadena in the VFDS will assist in providing rapid and coordinated responses to incidents, will provide the contracting cities with a reliable and modern dispatch system to prevent emergencies from overwhelming their capabilities and spreading to neighboring cities, and will bring financial assistance to Glendale, Pasadena and Burbank to offset their costs for operating and maintaining the VFDS. This system does not supplant the mutual aid program which operates among the cities of the San Gabriel Valley, Glendale and

::ODMA\PCDOCS\DOCS\54032\2

MEETING OF 4/30/2001

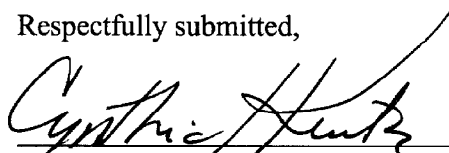
AGENDA ITEM NO. 4.A.4.

Pasadena, but rather assists in dispatching the resources of all the cities involved in a properly coordinated and timely response to emergencies.

Under the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) among Glendale, Pasadena and Burbank, the addition of new contract cities or the renewal of current contract cities to the VFDS must be approved by the governing bodies of the three original JPA members, Glendale, Burbank and Pasadena. Therefore, the renewal of contract services for the City of South Pasadena is being presented to each of the three city councils for approval. This proposed agreement does not confer any authority on the City of South Pasadena, or any other contract cities, to participate in the governance of the VFDS, which remains solely with the three JPA members, Glendale, Pasadena and Burbank. The agreement with the contract cities is for the provision of dispatch services only.

FISCAL IMPACT: There will be no cost whatever to the City of Pasadena. The renewal of the contract with South Pasadena will relieve Pasadena of some of the cost of maintaining the Verdugo system. South Pasadena will pay the Verdugo System a fee equivalent to \$22.27 for each call to the dispatch center in fiscal year 2000-2001. The fee is based on a calculated cost of providing the dispatch service per call times the number of calls anticipated to be handled on behalf of each contracting city, and will also include a 10% facilities charge paid to the City of Glendale for use of their fire station and personnel to house and operate the System. The agreement provides for increases in this fee in subsequent years. Because no additional capital equipment will be necessitated, the funds from cities such as South Pasadena which contract with the System will be used to pay the costs of any additional dispatch personnel which may be required. The remainder of those fees will be used to offset charges that the cities of Burbank, Glendale and Pasadena would otherwise have to pay for system operation or forthcoming system upgrades.

Respectfully submitted,


CYNTHIA J. KURTZ, CITY MANAGER

Approved by:


ERNEST MITCHELL
FIRE CHIEF

Prepared by:


HUGH HALFORD
ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY