

Agenda Report

DATE: November 4, 2002

TO: CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF AN INTERIM JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY AGREEMENT WITH THE CITIES OF GLENDALE, BURBANK, BEVERLY HILLS, CULVER CITY, EL SEGUNDO, MONTEBELLO, POMONA, AND TORRANCE FOR EVALUATION OF A PUBLIC SAFETY INTERAGENCY COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY SYSTEM (ICIS)

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council approve the Interim Joint Powers Authority Agreement with the cities of Glendale, Burbank, Beverly Hills, Culver City, El Segundo, Montebello, Pomona, and Torrance for evaluation of a Public Safety Interagency Communications Interoperability System.

BACKGROUND

During the recent replacement of its radio communications system, the City of Glendale began exploring the possibility of interconnecting its radios with those of other cities. Glendale's efforts to link radio communications systems were validated by the events of September 11, 2001, which made it clear to public safety and communications officials that improved interagency communications are essential.

Pasadena, and other regional cities, would recognize significant benefits from having an interoperable public safety communications system in place. The system would provide public safety personnel with immediate access to other agencies across Los Angeles County. The system would also provide Pasadena the opportunity to achieve interoperability across city departments (which are currently on different radio frequencies and can't communicate readily), as well as increase the capacity of departmental radio systems.

Public safety and communications staff from nine Southern California cities have held discussions about developing a partnership to support interoperability of their public safety communications systems. These cities include: Pasadena; Glendale; Burbank; Beverly Hills; Culver City; El Segundo; Montebello; Pomona; and Torrance. These cities were chosen on the basis of their compatible radio communications systems, strategic location, and commitment to public safety communications interoperability.

Given the compatibility of the various cities' radio systems, staff of the nine cities has explored combining their existing systems and creating links between key sites via new microwave paths. The cities' individual systems would work autonomously for daily business operations, but would be able to interoperate in emergency situations via radio channels set aside for wide area coverage. With much of the backbone infrastructure in place, this approach allows the cities to realize tangible results in a short time period and at much lower cost than starting an interconnected system from scratch.

It has become evident through these interagency discussions that a formalized structure is necessary to provide each city an equal voice in the evaluation and development of an interoperable system, as well as a forum for resolution of technical issues. It has also become clear that the interested agencies need a platform for combined applications for Homeland Security appropriations and grant funds to support development of the interagency system. Staff believes that joint applications for these funds are more likely to be successful than individual requests from each of the participating communities.

The "Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement to Establish an Interim Joint Powers Agency to Create the Interagency Communications Interoperability System" is designed to accomplish these goals. It does not carry any financial or long-term commitments for participants. The agreement goes into effect as soon as two or more cities approve it, and would terminate on June 30, 2003 or when a permanent joint powers authority is formed, whichever is earlier. The term of the Interim Authority could be extended by agreement of its members. To date, seven of the nine principal cities -- Glendale, Burbank, Culver City, El Segundo, Montebello, Pomona, and Torrance -- have signed the interim JPA.

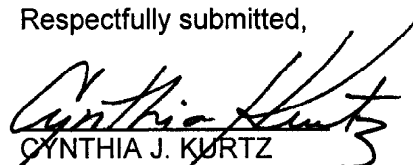
The Agreement states explicitly that the Interim Joint Powers Agency is created solely for pre-implementation activities related to an interagency, interoperable public safety communications system. Participation in this Agreement does not commit the participants to participating in a permanent joint powers authority, or to providing any funding.

A staff member appointed by the City Manager would represent the City on the Interim Authority's Board. Each participating agency will have one representative. The Agreement specifies that the Interim Authority will appoint two standing committees, to address operational and technical issues. Staff will report results of the Interim Joint Powers Authority's evaluation of the interagency communications system to Council before the June, 2003 expiration date of the Agreement.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact as a result of approving this interagency agreement. Any future requests for expenditures related to development of the interagency communications system and any changes required to Pasadena's public safety radio system will be presented to the Council for review and approval.

Respectfully submitted,


CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

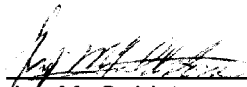
Interim Public Safety Communications Joint Powers Agreement
Page 3

Prepared by:



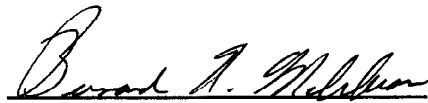
John R. Pratt
Chief Information Technology Officer

Approved by:

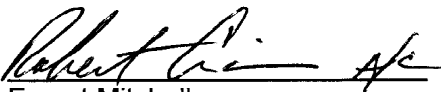


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