

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: June 12, 2006

THROUGH: PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: Adoption of a resolution pertaining to the implementation of the Federal National Incident Management System (NIMS) used by the City of Pasadena for management of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and large scale emergency field operations.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution incorporating the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the standard for incident management within the City of Pasadena, and participate in the phased implementation of NIMS as required by the federal and state governments.

BACKGROUND

On February 28, 2003, President Bush issued a Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD-5). The intent of this directive is to enhance the ability of the United States to manage domestic incidents such as terrorism and man-made and natural disasters by establishing a single, comprehensive, national incident management system.

As a result of HSPD-5, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) developed NIMS, which is to be utilized for the management of all types of disasters. NIMS is very similar to California's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), which was adopted through State legislation in the 1990s. The similarity between the two systems is most evident in the NIMS version of the Incident Command System (ICS) and adoption of the concept of mutual aid. In comparing NIMS with SEMS, there are some minor differences to the State adopted SEMS organization; however, these changes are only a negligible departure from the basic SEMS program.

The Department of Homeland Security has notified all recipients of federal grant funds relating to anti-terrorism, that adoption of and compliance with NIMS is required for future participation in federal grants.

The City's state required Multi-Hazard Functional Plan, used for citywide disaster responses, will be presented to Council later this year contingent on the State Office of Emergency Services' (OES) review. This citywide disaster response plan is also required to be NIMS compliant.

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) has begun the process of integrating the NIMS program with California's adopted SEMS program. Ultimately, in California, SEMS will be synonymous with NIMS, and all government agencies will be required to use the new NIMS in order to qualify for post-disaster personnel cost reimbursement, as well as to qualify for Federal anti-terrorism grants.


NIMS is a new federal program and details pertaining to the specifics of the system have not been finalized, therefore the federal government has made compliance with NIMS a phased process. The first required action in this process for Pasadena is to adopt the attached Resolution, recognizing NIMS as the City's standard for incident management.

FISCAL IMPACT


The cost of compliance with this requirement is minimal. Staff involved in emergency response and emergency management will be required to be trained in NIMS this coming year. The City provided SEMS training to staff in 2005, and the costs associated with NIMS training would be similar, most likely associated with lost productivity in staff time due to attending the training.

The cost of non-compliance could be substantial, given the loss of Federal anti-terrorism grants and the potential loss of emergency response costs resulting from a disaster.

Respectfully submitted,



CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

Prepared by,



Lisa Derderian
Emergency Management Coordinator

Approved by,



Dennis J. Downs
Fire Chief

RESOLUTION NO. 2005-___

A RESOLUTION BY THE PASADENA CITY COUNCIL ADOPTING THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS)

WHEREAS, the President of the United States of America in Homeland Security Directive-5, directed the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to develop and administer a National Incident Management System that would provide a consistent nationwide approach for federal, state, local, and tribal governments to work together more effectively and efficiently to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters, regardless of cause, size, or complexity; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary and desirable that all Federal, State, local and tribal emergency management agencies and personnel coordinate their efforts to effectively and efficiently provide the highest levels of incident management; and

WHEREAS, it is essential for responding to disasters and securing the homeland that federal, state, local, and tribal organizations utilize standardized terminology, standardized organizational structures, interoperable communications, consolidated action plans, unified command structures, uniform personnel qualification standards, uniform standards for planning, training, and exercising, comprehensive resource management, and designated incident facilities during emergencies or disasters; and

WHEREAS, the National Incident Management System creates a single, comprehensive incident management system for all public agencies in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the City of Pasadena has already adopted and uses California's Standardized Emergency System for emergency management; and

WHEREAS, the California Standardized Emergency Management System substantially meets the objectives of the National Incident Management System, and

WHEREAS, the City of Pasadena desires to provide the community with the best capability to rapidly and efficiently respond to emergencies and disasters; and

WHEREAS, the National Incident Management System is now the national standard for organizing and responding to emergencies and disasters, including terrorism, man-made events, and natural disasters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASADENA HEREBY: formally adopt the National Incident Management System as the standard for incident management, and agrees to participate in the phased implementation of the National Incident Management System.

Adopted at the _____ meeting of the City Council on the _____ day of _____, 2006, by the following vote:

AYES:


NOYES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ATTEST:

By: 

Hugh Halford
Assistant City Attorney

Jane L. Rodriguez, CMC
City Clerk