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Subject: CC 3/22 - IT Agenda Item - Microsoft Desktop Software
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Comments: Mr. Beck

I congratulate you on forming a new Department of Information Technology, consolidating IT activities of multiple departments and hiring an interim CIO. I attended the Feb 1, 2010 council meeting and read the report. As an IT professional with over 25 years experience and Pasadena resident, I would like to offer my assistance to the CIO or any appropriate advisory board.

I discovered on tomorrow's agenda (3/22) that staff has proposed a substantial acquisition of Microsoft desktop software ($800,000+).

I would like to inform the council that many organizations, including the federal government and academic facilities, are now selecting Open Source software as viable alternatives to costly proprietary software such as Microsoft.

Open Office, sponsored by Sun Microsystems, (http://www.sun.com/software/openoffice/index.jsp) is an excellent, fully compatible alternative to Microsoft Office, available at NO COST. Oracle (formerly Sun Microsystems) offers a supported version for $35 / seat. I strongly recommend that the city consider OpenOffice before renewing a multi-year license with Microsoft.

Additionally, I can provide an alternative to replacement of the City's desktop PC's, by using Sun's Desktop and Server Virtualization solutions. I believe Virtualization was one of the recommendations of the IT report commissioned by the city.

I request that the City Council withhold approval of the Microsoft acquistion until they have had an opportunity to fully evaluate less costly alternatives. I would be pleased to meet with the CIO and / or City Manager to discuss these options further.

Mr. Beck, thank you for your time and service. I have also asked Judy to distribute this email to the Mayor and City Council for Monday's meeting.

Regards

Paul Cahill

(formerly with Sun Microsystems)

Date: 3/21/2010 10:49:53 AM

03/22/2010

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