

AGENDA DESCRIPTION:

Consideration and possible action regarding approval of the City entering into a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement to establish the Interoperability Network of the South Bay (INSB). (Fiscal Impact: \$0.00).

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:




1. Execute a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement to establish a Joint Powers Agency (JPA) to create the Interoperability Network of the South Bay (INSB) in a form approved by the City Attorney authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement in a form approved by the City Attorney.
2. Alternatively, discuss and take other action related to this item.

ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

- 1) Proposed Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$

Amount Budgeted: \$0
Additional Appropriation: \$0.00
Account Number(s):

ORIGINATED BY: Brian Evanski, Police Captain 
REVIEWED BY: Mitch Tavera, Chief of Police & Chris Donovan, Fire Chief 
APPROVED BY: Greg Carpenter, City Manager 

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

Since August 2000, the El Segundo Police and Fire Departments have operated on a “conventional” analog radio system for public safety radio communications. This system was designed to provide superior coverage throughout the City and has certainly proven successful for over a decade and a half.

Although this communication system has functioned well for sixteen years, the radio infrastructure and equipment is aging beyond its useful service life. Additionally, the manufacturer will be discontinuing factory-level maintenance and support by December 31, 2018, after which they will no longer be providing replacement parts and repairs. Further, due to the technological limitations of this equipment, interoperable communications between neighboring agencies remains limited.

Finally and maybe most important, this current system prohibits the ability to communicate in a digital, encrypted mode and restricts “trunking” capabilities. The primary purpose of a digital

trunked radio system is efficiency. A trunked system is a complex computer-controlled two-way radio system that allows sharing of relatively few radio frequency channels among a large group of users. Instead of assigning a radio channel to one particular organization at a time, users are instead assigned to a "talkgroup." When any user in that group wishes to converse with another user in the talkgroup, a vacant radio channel is found automatically by the system and the conversation takes place on that channel. The control channel equipment coordinates all the activity of the radios in the system.

Based on these reasons, Staff believes it is the appropriate time to migrate to a regionalized and more advanced radio option.

In order to achieve interoperability, a JPA is being formed. The goal of this JPA is to establish and maintain a regional, interoperable radio system to be shared by seven member cities including El Segundo, Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach and Torrance. This system will provide radio communications coverage throughout the South Bay jurisdiction and operate as a regional subsystem interdependent with the established system based in Glendale known as the Interagency Communications Interoperability system (ICI).

Funding to build the infrastructure will be through grants awarded to the South Bay Regional Public Communications Authority (SBRPCA) and the City of Torrance. The Prime Site will be located in the City of Torrance and additional sites will be located throughout the South Bay area to ensure adequate coverage remains for El Segundo and all member agencies.

Although no funding is necessary to join the JPA, once the Wide-Area infrastructure is placed into production, initial annual maintenance and service fees for the City of El Segundo are anticipated to be \$103,253. This cost will be partially offset by the annual maintenance costs of our current system. Additionally, user equipment including mobile and portable radios will need to be replaced and/or upgraded depending on the model of equipment. The expected costs for these upgrades should not exceed \$1,320,000, most of which already exists and will be funded through the City's Equipment Replacement fund. Current mobile and portable radios are either past due or nearing end of service life and will be due for replacement in the upcoming year(s).

Formation of the JPA will establish a governance board of voting directors representing all member cities and will be a body subject to the Brown Act. The JPA board will meet regularly, adopt a budget, seek capitol grant funding, contract for goods and services, and allocate shared system costs based on each member's 3-year average calls for police and fire service. Each City's City Manager shall serve as the voting director for that City.

It should be noted that while joining the JPA at this time is non-binding, declining to participate in this venture is not a viable long-term option as the City will need to develop and replace our own stand-alone radio system. Maintaining our own system will not only be costly, but will reduce the number of available radio channels as the City only owns two radio frequencies for public safety use. Access to the SBRPCA frequencies, currently utilized for tactical operations and communications, will no longer be available for El Segundo.

Therefore, it is Staff's recommendation the City Council authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement to establish a Joint Powers Agency (JPA) to create the Interoperability Network of the South Bay (INSB).