

**INTEROPERABILITY NETWORK OF THE SOUTH BAY JOINT POWERS  
AUTHORITY MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes: January 7, 2020**

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The Operations Committee of the Interoperability Network of the South Bay (INSB) Joint Powers Authority convened at 09:30 AM on Tuesday, January 7, 2020, in the City of Hawthorne – Police Department Community Room, 12501 Hawthorne Blvd, Hawthorne, CA 90250.

**2. ROLL CALL BY CHAIR**

Present: Lt. Landon Phillips, Hermosa Beach PD  
Ofc. Matt Slawson, Torrance PD  
Lt. Vincente Osorio, Gardena PD  
Sgt. Chris Wiley, Hawthorne PD  
Hugo Perez, El Segundo PD  
CSO Mike Sweeney, Manhattan Beach PD  
Chief Scott Hafdell, Manhattan Beach FD

Also Present: Jerry Edwards, City of Torrance  
Ernest Gallo, City of Torrance  
Dennis Faro, City of Torrance  
John Krok, SBRPCA  
Thomas Luce

**3. REPORT OF THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

Sgt. Wiley confirmed the proper posting of the agenda at the City of Hawthorne and City of Torrance.

**4. ORAL COMMUNICATION**

Manhattan Beach resident Thomas Luce requested INSB PD agencies remain operating in the clear and not to encrypt communications for the scanner enthusiasts

**5. REPORTS**

A. Technical Committee Update

Jerry Edwards updated the group on the Manhattan Beach water tower site and the planned renovation. Additional meetings are going to take place within the next several weeks to discuss the plan moving forward. All 6 sites will remain operational during the renovation. The options include erecting a new structure at the existing water tower site to house the equipment, or moving the equipment from the water tower site and instead create the 6<sup>th</sup> site at the Manhattan Beach PD/Fire building.

## **6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Minutes from both the November and December Ops meetings approved.

## **7. ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Agency reports on system performance:**

- i. Torrance PD – great system coverage and performance. Only issue has been LAPD airships who still do not have new INSB channels, therefore complications from patch have occurred
- ii. Hermosa Beach PD – great coverage overall with the exception of “out of range” threshold. Our understanding is that 1 bar of service on the radio should result in non-broken comms, however this is not happening. The radio is receiving very poorly while showing 1 bar, however radio will not display (out of range). Need to explore if changing the “out of range” threshold can be done.
- iii. Hawthorne PD – great coverage, officers still getting used to digital sound
- iv. Gardena PD – no issues, great coverage
- v. Manhattan Beach PD – reported coverage issues in several areas throughout the city where the terrain dips down. These were areas outdoors and coverage was very poor. They are going to follow up with the officers who reported the coverage issues and attempt to list and diagnose the locations.
- vi. Manhattan Beach FD – no issues reported, great coverage in areas they did not have coverage before
- vii. El Segundo PD – no issues reported

### **B. No attendance from USCG personnel**

### **C. Discussion regarding the proposed INSB “Red” channel and how it would be used. The group agreed that having a Red channel would be advantageous to the South Bay PD agencies. The plan is for the Red channel to be a P25 talkgroup with encryption enabled.**

The Red channel will be programmed in the 16<sup>th</sup> channel position of all INSB PD home zones. If an emergency incident arises where outside agencies may assist (such as a pursuit, perimeter, shots fired, etc) the dispatch center in which is handling the emergency will patch in the primary PD channel with the Red channel. This way, the other agencies who will be scanning the Red channel will begin heading the emergency. This allows agencies / officers who chose not to scan all South Bay PD channels to now have the ability to only hear emergency traffic as part of their scan list. Additionally,

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since the Home Zones of each agency do not necessarily include all of the primary PD channels of all 7 cities, this will allow officers to quickly switch over to the channel in which the emergency is taking place on the Red, instead of having to navigate through the radio during the time of emergency trying to find the correct channel. The Technical committee will discuss the feasibility of the Red channel at their upcoming meeting.

- D. The group discussed BDA options for the hospitals and other locations where communications are critical and coverage is lacking. A list of locations is being developed amongst the group. The question was raised if we want to consider outside agencies channels being in the BDA as well such as LA County since they also enter the facilities.
- E. AGC (automatic gain control setting) discussion. Torrance PD has been operating with AGC turned off on all subscriber units and it seems to have helped with the varying volume issue. However, some officers are still talking too quietly and/or too far away from the mic causing low volume. AGC being off does seem to have improved communications however.

## **8. STAFF COMMENTS**

Director Gallo explained he has had inquiries from city officials and others asking how the public is learning of details related to emergencies and various calls that the South Bay PDs have responded to after switching over to encrypted. The group is confident that the encryption is secure, however explained other ways in which the public may learn of the details, including public alerts, officers on scene who are approached by citizens and asked what is occurring, and the fact that the fire department channels are not encrypted and often times the fire personnel broadcast details of the incident over the fire channels which are likely being heard by the public who operate scanners.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 AM.