

Honorable Mayor and Members  
of the City Council  
City Hall  
Torrance, California

**Members of the City Council:**

**SUBJECT: Communications and Information Technology – Authorize Public Safety Committee meeting for Interoperability**

**Expenditure: None**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation of the City Manager, the Communications and Information Technology Director, Fire Chief, and Police Chief that City Council authorize a meeting of the Public Safety Committee regarding the adoption of a RESOLUTION authorizing the City's membership in the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) joint powers agreement (JPA) with a recommendation coming forward to Council.

Funding

None identified at this time.

**BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS**

Following the events of September 11, 2001, the National 911 Commission, in its report to Congress and the President, identified serious weaknesses in our ability to respond to regional crises and disasters due to a lack of common interoperable radio communications' infrastructures and equipment. As a result, Los Angeles County initiated the "Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System" (LA-RICS) Steering Committee to develop and implement a common integrated wireless voice and data communication system that will support the communication needs of the more than 34,000 first responders and local mission-critical personnel within the Los Angeles County region.

Joint Powers Agreement - For the past two-and-one-half years, the LA-RICS Steering Committee, consisting of county-wide principal stakeholders, including representatives of City Managers and independent cities, has been meeting to review

the technical and governance issues associated with developing, maintaining, and operating a common interoperable radio system for the benefit of all communities in Los Angeles County.

- The LA-RICS Steering Committee drafted a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to create the LA-RICS Authority, whose members will establish a Board of Directors to oversee the LA-RICS project.
- On August 19, 2008, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved the LA-RICS JPA. The Los Angeles City Council will approve an amended JPA on February 10, 2009. Both the Los Angeles Area Fire and Police Chiefs Associations have endorsed the JPA.
- The LA-RICS JPA requires that cities wishing to become “Member Cities” acquire their individual City Council authorization and approval of the LA-RICS JPA document within 45 days following both the City and the County of Los Angeles’ execution of the JPA.
- The JPA is set up so that no financial commitments will be required of participating Member Cities until such time that the newly established Board of Directors adopts a funding plan identifying short and long term capital requirements. All of the LA-RICS Authority’s members will have the opportunity to participate in the development of the funding plan. If, at any time prior to the adoption of the funding plan, a Member agency feels that it cannot contribute the identified resources or that it would not be in its best interests to continue participating in the system, that agency may terminate its membership without financial contribution or penalty.

Thus far, the Steering Committee has spent over \$9 million in City and County funds towards the development of the LA-RICS system. Nonetheless, despite the expected availability of future Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) and other grants, undoubtedly, additional financial resources will be needed to complete funding of LA-RICS. Member agencies will be able to take part in the development of the funding plan, which will give them an opportunity, as stated above, to terminate its membership without financial contribution or penalty, if such Member agency feels it cannot contribute the identified resources.

Another JPA with the same purpose that has been in existence for several years is the Interagency Communications Interoperability System (ICIS), of which Torrance was once a member. As of December 2008, the ICIS JPA (i.e. owners) included Culver City, City of Burbank, City of Glendale, City of Montebello, City of Beverly Hills, City of Pomona, and the City of Pasadena. ICIS is a locally designed and implemented interoperable radio system distributed primarily along the I-210 corridor (north) and its membership has been primarily cities and municipalities north of Los Angeles. We

withdrew from ICIS because "staff has concluded that further participation in the JPA would not offer Torrance any technical or operational advantages." (Council Item 7E, February 28, 2006)

Therefore, it is recommended by the City Manager, the Communications and Information Technology Director, Fire Chief, and Police Chief that Council authorize the Public Safety Committee to consider the adoption of a Resolution of the City Council authorizing the City's membership in the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with a recommendation to Council.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Assistant City Manager



JOHN J. NEU  
Police Chief



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CONCUR:



LeRoy Jackson  
City Manager