



BERTHA W. HENRY, County Administrator

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January 19, 2016

Fire Chief DiPetrillo, President
Fire Chiefs Assoc. of Broward County
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Fire Rescue Department
3105 North State Road 7
Hollywood, Florida 33021

Police Chief Dwayne Flournoy, President
Broward County Chiefs of Police Assoc.
City of Hallandale Beach
Hallandale Beach Police Department
400 S. Federal Highway
Hallandale Beach, Florida 33009

Subject: Follow-up from Meetings with Fire and Police Chiefs' Associations on Radio Project

Dear Chiefs:

Thank you for the meetings held on January 7th (Police Chiefs) and January 12th (Fire Chiefs) – both were well attended. Our goal with those meetings as well as other attempts for feedback outlined in the report was to receive input, provide clarity to the report's content and to allow each association to ask questions directly of the consultant and staff. Attached are the responses to your comments raised in your letter and/or discussed at the meetings. The two additional questions raised by the Police Chief's Association are also included. While we believe we have responded to all of the questions raised, please feel free to offer any other commentary that may have come up as you have had more time to consider the response.

To summarize, the recommended Phase II Public Safety Radio System will fully replace the legacy system with a modern digital radio system. The system is designed with redundancy and back-up capabilities which are notably absent in the legacy system. It will increase penetration into many of the highrise buildings to the east and other areas of the County, such as Alligator Alley. Noting there are no known systems that provide 100% coverage, alternatives to further enhance coverage were discussed, such as BDAs and WiFi applications with an understanding that testing will have to occur following system installation. The best solution will be pursued ensuring the greatest opportunity for improved coverage. Finally, the new system will provide for growth and interoperability with our neighboring counties, federal and state agencies,

There appear to be two outstanding issues: responsibility for replacing subscriber units; and maintenance of those units into the future. The report notes that certain units will have to be replaced and offered a ballpark estimate based on the inventory submitted to Broward County's Office of Regional Communications & Technology. Each participating municipality entered into an interlocal agreement many years ago which specifies the responsibilities the County and the municipality retain. You may recall my attendance at each of your associations nearly two years ago asking municipalities, if the opportunity exists, to delay any purchase of radios until the system is replaced. While the system design will accommodate any P25 compliant subscriber unit, there may be unique features that are proprietary to a specific company. We will not know that until the solicitation process is underway and/or concluded. To assist in that assessment, a step in the solicitation process will be added to allow vendors to display their products and allow for hands-on testing, where feasible.

Broward County Board of County Commissioners

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The specifications will require vendors to quote maintenance as an evaluation feature, including subscriber units. We are open to creating a coop or any other opportunity to buy in bulk and take advantage of discounts. I have also attached a copy of the PowerPoint presentation on the radio replacement project for your use, which has this and other information that may be of interest.

County staff will be following up with your associations regarding any additional information that has been requested. We look forward to working with you on this important system and answering any additional questions you may have on the radio replacement project. If you have any questions, please contact me or Alphonso Jefferson, Jr., Assistant County Administrator, at ajefferson@broward.org.

Thank you,


Bertha Henry
County Administrator

Attachments

cc: Mayor and Members of the Broward County Board of County Commissioners
Sheriff Scott Israel, Broward Sheriff's Office
Members of the Broward County Communications Committee
Alphonso Jefferson, Jr., Assistant County Administrator
Brett Bayag, Acting Director, Office of Regional Communications and Technology
Municipal Managers