



BERTHA W. HENRY, County Administrator

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December 8, 2015

Mayor Mike Ryan
City of Sunrise
10770 West Oakland Park Boulevard
Sunrise, FL 33351

Re: Implementation of Closest Unit Response

Dear Mayor Ryan:

Thank you for your email providing a status on the implementation of Closest Unit Response (CUR).

As you and I have discussed, the desire to implement a program to facilitate CUR has been underway since the early 2000s. County staff was directly involved in a pilot program with the Five City Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) Close Unit Response Group (Sunrise, Davie, Tamarac, Lauderhill and North Lauderdale) for medical calls, thanks to your leadership and that of the participating municipalities. As a result, we know it can work and now is the time to develop a countywide plan to implement CUR versus another pilot. There are other communities around the country and in this state that have this program such as Baltimore, Maryland and Alachua County, Florida; therefore there are models available for our consideration.

The good news is that there is a small group (CUR workgroup) which involves the Broward Sheriff's Office, City of Tamarac, and our respective staffs (Chief DiBernardo and Alphonso Jefferson) working to develop countywide protocols for the participants' consideration and to ensure that all of the automatic aid agreements necessary to effectuate participation are in place. We are installing a new Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD), which has a lot more bells and whistles than the CAD we have today. In addition, we have installed the Automatic Call Distribution (ACD) system, which requires dispatchers to have consistent protocols and training across all regional dispatch centers.

Finally, the County Commission has invested millions and is slated to invest millions more to achieve the desired state approved by the voters in 2002. This is no longer an issue of technology. What we need now is for the municipalities that have executed the Regional Interlocal Agreement to adopt auto-aid agreements and to agree on policies and standard operating procedures (SOPs). The aforementioned working group will present a plan (SOPs and operational policies) to the Broward Fire Chiefs Association for its consideration. Our

role, as I see it, is to get an approved set of protocols that our chiefs can embrace in front of the elected officials participating in the program. Our goal should be to have a plan in place by a year from now consistent with when the new CAD is expected to be operational.

We are embarking on another budget year. Due to the amount of time it has taken to agree on a program, the Office of Regional Communications and Technology has indicated much of the equipment that the County purchased years ago needs replacing. It is important for the County to know that there is real progress towards this program before committing to another significant investment of money.

I apologize for the delay in responding, and if you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Bertha Henry
County Administrator

cc: Broward County Board of County Commissioners
Sheriff Scott Israel, Broward Sheriff's Office
Alphonso Jefferson, Jr., Assistant County Administrator
Brett Bayag, Acting Director, Office of Regional Communications & Technology
Broward County Consolidated Communications Committee