



BERTHA W. HENRY, County Administrator

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April 11, 2016

Municipal Managers

Subject: Update on Computer Aided Dispatch and Public Safety Radio Systems

Dear Colleagues:

As you may be aware, the County is well underway on the implementation and procurement of critical public safety applications for our first responders. This letter serves as an update on activities that have occurred to date.

Computer Aided Dispatch System

Progress continues with implementation of the new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. The new CAD has features which include a multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency operating platform capable of interfacing with the County's E-911 System, Radio System, Regional Law and Fire Records Systems, and Paging and Toning Systems. It comes integrated with Automatic Vehicle/Resource Location and in-vehicle mobile mapping. We are still on target for implementation in the first quarter of 2017.

Public Safety Radio Systems

During the months of February and March, the County Commission (Board) approved various aspects of the procurement process for: 700MHz Interoperable Overlay System (scheduled implementation is the 3rd Quarter 2016); Project 25 Public Radio System Replacement Project (scheduled implementation in 2018); Alphanumeric Paging System (scheduled implementation is the 4th Quarter of 2016); and Fire Station Alerting System (scheduled implementation for the first Quarter of 2017.)

The first of these systems, 700MHz Interoperable Overlay System, will be performed by Motorola Solutions, Inc.. A Notice to Proceed was issued on March 30, 2016. Once completed, this system will allow for interoperability with the Federal, State, and other municipalities and provide back up for the County's main radio system to support communications in the event the primary system becomes impaired or overloaded.

Local Amendment on Two-Way Communications

On March 10, 2016, the Board of Rules and Appeals (BORA) held a public hearing to consider a local government amendment to Chapter One of the building code to establish county-wide requirements to lessen the possibility of two-way communication enhanced public safety booster systems from impacting the County's public safety radio system. I am pleased to announce that BORA approved the local amendment. This amendment institutes building code requirements for the proper installation of bi-directional amplifiers (BDAs) to ensure that they do not interfere with first responders' communications. This regulation went into effect for new installations on April 1, 2016.

Inventory and Maintenance of Subscriber Units

Given the critical nature of the public safety radio, County staff has been evaluating the radio database against the radio inventories provided by each user agency. For radios that are adversely impacting the radio system (duplicate IDs, off frequency, etc.), County staff provides communication to each user agency on the removal of IDs that are not assigned to an active radio in the system, and the removal of IDs that are not known in the radio system. To assist in this effort, please submit an updated radio inventory from each user agency (ID, alias, and serial number) to the Office of Regional Communications and Technology on or before Friday, April 29th. In the near future, the County will deactivate any radio that is not registered with the County to assure our inventory is up to date and that future planning for the system is more accurate.

To address the maintenance of radios, County staff will be working with both the Police and Fire Chiefs' Associations for a consistent uniform maintenance program for radios. As part of the procurement process for the radio system, proposers will be asked to provide pricing for a uniform maintenance program that can be utilized by user agencies; or alternatively, the County could continue to perform such services on a cost recovery basis.

We are instituting monthly communication meetings to keep regional partners and stakeholders informed on projects. I encourage members of your municipality to attend/participate. In addition, we will continue to provide monthly updates via email. Project updates, including timeframes for completion can be viewed at <http://www.broward.org/CommunicationsTechnology/Pages/ProjectUpdates.aspx>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jose De Zayas, Administrator in the Office of Regional Communications and Technology, who serves as the Project Manager, at jdezayas@broward.org or Alphonso Jefferson at ajefferson@broward.org.

Thank You.



Bertha Henry,
County Administrator

- cc: Broward County Board of County Commissioners
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Broward County Consolidated Communications Committee