



Item No. 176

LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA

Agenda Item Memorandum

Town Manager

Connie Hoffmann

Department

Department Director

<b>COMMISSION MEETING DATE - 7:00 PM</b>	<b>Deadline to Town Clerk</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> October 9 - Regular Meeting 7:00 PM	July 18

\*Subject to Change

- Presentation
- Reports
- Consent
- Ordinance
- Resolution
- Quasi-Judicial
- Old Business
- New Business

**SUBJECT TITLE: WESTON RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE COUNTY TO PAY FOR CONSOLIDATED EMERGENCY SERVICES COMPLETELY THROUGH A COUNTY-LEVIED AD VALOREM TAX**

**EXPLANATION:** At the September 21, 2012 meeting of the I Board (the emergency communications consolidation committee), the Board voted 16-2 (with Broward County and Coral Springs dissenting) to support the attached resolution put forward by the City of Weston. Although I am a member of the I Board, I was not present at that meeting and therefore did not vote on it. I am glad I was not at that meeting as the Commission has not taken a formal position on the matter and there is an argument that it is contrary to our taxpayers' interest.

As I have reported to you before, the majority of city managers on the I Board have consistently taken the position reflected in Weston's resolution, that emergency communications is a regional service and should be funded by a County ad valorem tax, but have been advised by County staff that the Commission has already expressed that they are not in agreement with that position. The funding formula that the I Board has agreed on as an alternative to a County-wide levy of 33% ad valorem, 33% fee based on population, and 33% fee based on calls for service is one I argued for on the Committee. I did that because it is actually cheaper for Lauderdale-By-The-Sea property owners than if they paid for it through an ad valorem tax because of our property valuations and low number of calls for service. The County staff has calculated the cost to our property owners under the all ad valorem model to be \$246,000 annually, versus \$124,000 on the 33%/33%/33% model.

I am somewhat surprised that other "donor" cities, including Weston, would prefer the County ad valorem model since it would cost their taxpayers more. I presume that there are two things at play here. One is that these donor cities have a strong philosophical belief that emergency communications should be considered a regional service that the County should pay for and, two the County would have to raise their tax levy and take the heat for it from the taxpayers. (Taxpayers are already being taxed for emergency communications. I wonder if those cities that have the cost already factored into their tax levy, will reduce their levy if the County takes over full responsibility for emergency call services.) A third point, though I doubt that it was discussed at City Commission meetings, is that there is less bureaucracy associated with a service the County delivers than with a service the County delivers with multiple oversight and advisory boards made up of city and county representatives.



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County staff has requested that the resolution be brought before each City's governing body for consideration during the month of October 2012 and to advise them if the resolution is passed and adopted no later than November 13, 2012.

I have placed this on the Commission agenda for a policy discussion and direction as to whether you wish us to bring back a Resolution similar to Weston's at the October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**EXHIBITS: Weston Resolution Regarding Funding of Emergency Communications Service**

Reviewed by Town Attorney  
 Yes  No

Town Manager Initials CA

**CITY OF WESTON, FLORIDA  
RESOLUTION NO. 2012-\_\_\_\_\_**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WESTON, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING THE CITY'S SUPPORT FOR THE ADOPTION OF A PLAN FOR COOPERATIVE COUNTYWIDE CONSOLIDATION OF E-911 COMMUNICATIONS AND DISPATCH WHOLLY FUNDED THROUGH COUNTY AD VALOREM TAXES.

WHEREAS, First, prior to 1992, there were several E-911 dispatch centers operating independently in Broward County; and

WHEREAS, Second, in 1992, Broward County created a regional communications system, fully funded by County revenues, utilizing an 800 MZ system, and offered all other agencies the opportunity to join the regional system at no charge; and

WHEREAS, Third, some agencies joined the regional communications system and provided their radio frequencies to Broward County for use by the system, but numerous other agencies continued to operate their own dispatch systems; and

WHEREAS, Fourth, following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack, additional concerns were raised regarding interoperability of the various dispatch systems operating in Broward County; and

WHEREAS, Fifth, in 2002, the electorate of Broward County voted overwhelmingly to amend Section 5.03(A) of the Broward County Charter to provide for the establishment and County funding of a communications infrastructure for fire and emergency medical services, as follows:

The County Commission with cooperation from Municipalities shall establish a countywide communications infrastructure for fire and emergency medical services. The County shall provide funding for the communications infrastructure and all service providers will utilize the elements of the communications infrastructure. The communications infrastructure shall facilitate closest unit response for life-threatening emergencies and support for regional specialty teams.; and

WHEREAS, Sixth, since 2002, through the leadership of the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, the County has successfully implemented and funded significant and meaningful advances toward interoperability, including the funding of the Regional Public Safety Communications Committee (RPSCC) overseeing the development of County-wide interoperability for CAD, Radio, Law Records and Fire Records for all cities irrespective of the police and/or fire provider; and

WHEREAS, Seventh, notwithstanding the 2002 amendment to the County Charter, there continues to be 10 independent dispatch systems operating in Broward County; and

WHEREAS, Eighth, since 2010, hundreds of hours have been dedicated to analyzing the feasibility of cooperative consolidation of the E-911 communications and dispatch system; and

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1 WHEREAS, Ninth, in 2010, the Broward League of Cities initiated a "Public Safety  
2 Answering Points Task Force," a multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary team of public safety  
3 professionals, staff, and elected officials; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, Tenth, on October 21, 2010, the Communications Technology Division of  
6 the Broward Sheriff's Office issued an extensive "Consolidation Feasibility Analysis", which  
7 highlighted that there were 10 different Public Safety Answering Points ("PSAPs") for the  
8 purposes of E-911 Communications and Dispatch, which provide differing levels of  
9 performance, costs per call, and equipment utilization; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, Eleventh, the Consolidation Feasibility Analysis concluded that E-911  
12 Dispatch operations for all Broward County Police, Fire, EMS and Sheriff agencies should be  
13 fully consolidated into three PSAPs, under a unified organizational structure, which would  
14 improve citizen/officer safety, eliminate call transfers that result in delayed response, result in  
15 significant cost savings, and promote efficient and cost effective migration to new technologies;  
16 and  
17

18 WHEREAS, Twelfth, the Consolidation Feasibility Analysis study was presented in  
19 November 2010 to the Broward League of Cities, and as a result it was agreed that a taskforce  
20 should be formed to further consider implementation; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, Thirteenth, in 2011, the Public Safety Committee of the Broward League of  
23 Cities, the Fire Chief's Association of Broward County, the Broward County Chiefs of Police  
24 Association, the Fire-Rescue Services Council, the Broward County City Managers Association,  
25 and the Board of Directors of the Broward League of Cities all adopted and supported  
26 resolutions calling for an implementation process for cooperative consolidation of E-911  
27 communications and dispatch; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, Fourteenth, on November 1, 2011, through the leadership of the Broward  
30 County Board of County Commissioners, and with the cooperation of the Broward League of  
31 Cities, the County Commission ratified the formation of the Broward County Consolidated  
32 Communications Committee; and  
33

34 WHEREAS, Fifteenth, on March 1, 2012, the Broward County Consolidated  
35 Communications Committee, co-chaired by a representative of the Board of the County  
36 Commissioners and Broward League of Cities, issued a Report and Recommendations for  
37 Cooperative Consolidation of E-911 Communications; and  
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39 WHEREAS, Sixteenth, the Report and Recommendations of the Broward County  
40 Consolidated Communications Committee recommended the implementation of cooperative  
41 consolidation of E-911 communications and dispatch; and  
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43 WHEREAS, Seventeenth, the Report and Recommendations of the Broward County  
44 Consolidated Communications Committee provided that funding must be equitable, stable and  
45 predictable; funding must take into account that this is a regional function; and that any  
46 interlocal agreements should provide for equity of funding; and  
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48 WHEREAS, Eighteenth, the Broward County Consolidated Communications  
49 recommended three potential funding options, including a Municipal Services Taxing Unit  
50 Millage set by Broward County Commission and dedicated to communications only; a service

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1 agreement predicated upon usage, population, taxable value, or some combination of the three;  
2 or County funding through ad valorem taxes; and  
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4 WHEREAS, Nineteenth, on March 27, 2012, the Broward County Commission adopted a  
5 resolution creating the Broward County Consolidated Communications Implementation Advisory  
6 Board (the "IBoard"), for the purpose of reviewing, considering and making recommendations to  
7 the Broward County Commission and municipalities relating to the creation, governance,  
8 funding, and operations of a regional and cooperative consolidated E-911 communications  
9 system, and to develop an interlocal agreement to be utilized by all participants in the regional  
10 and cooperative consolidated E-911 System; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, Twentieth, the IBoard has held numerous meetings and it has become clear  
13 that the only feasible, truly stable and wholly equitable method of funding a consolidated  
14 communications and dispatch system is through County ad valorem taxes; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, Twenty-first, because the consolidation of 911 communications is a critical  
17 public safety function, stability of funding is a crucial component of any regionalization plan; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, Twenty-second, uncertainties about the stream of funding, either because  
20 of doubts about any single individual municipality or group of municipalities being able to meet  
21 their financial obligations or the potential implementation of protest strategies surrounding  
22 funding, would destabilize the system and jeopardize the safety of residents, officers, and fire-  
23 rescue personnel; and  
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25 WHEREAS, Twenty-third, because the countywide communications system is a regional  
26 service, analogous to regional libraries and regional parks, Broward County should operate the  
27 system (or contract for its operations) and should fully fund the systems through County ad  
28 valorem taxes; and  
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30 WHEREAS, Twenty-fourth, municipalities that are operating their own communications  
31 and dispatch systems would have the option to opt-out of joining the countywide  
32 communications system; and  
33

34 WHEREAS, Twenty-fifth, through the leadership of the Broward County Board of  
35 Commissioners, the County has made a significant and meaningful investment in  
36 communications infrastructure and staffing to the betterment of the communications systems in  
37 the County and to the benefit of all of the County's residents; and  
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39 WHEREAS, Twenty-sixth, the County is in the process of returning the Communications  
40 Technologies Division to the County Administrator; and  
41

42 WHEREAS, Twenty-seventh, on September 21, 2012, the IBoard voted 16-2 (with only  
43 Broward County and Coral Springs dissenting), to support this resolution and the adoption of a  
44 plan for cooperative countywide consolidation of E-911 communications and dispatch, to be  
45 operated (or contracted for operation) by Broward County, and to be wholly funded through  
46 County ad valorem taxes; and  
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48 WHEREAS, Twenty-eighth, the City Commission finds it to be in the best interest of the  
49 residents of the City, as well as all of Broward County, to support the adoption of a cooperative  
50 consolidation of E-911 communications and dispatch system fully funded through Broward  
51 County ad valorem taxes.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of Weston, Florida:

Section 1: The foregoing recitals contained in the preamble to this Resolution are incorporated by reference herein.

Section 2: The City Commission supports the adoption of a cooperative consolidation of E-911 communications and dispatch.

Section 3: The City Commission requests the assistance of the Broward County Board of Commissioners, and seeks the continued leadership of the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, to continue to fund regionalization of 911 and dispatch communications and to fully fund the consolidated communications plan by Broward County through County ad-valorem taxes.

Section 4: The City Clerk is directed to distribute this Resolution to the Board of County Commissioners for Broward County, the Broward County League of Cities and each of the municipalities in Broward County.

Section 5: The appropriate City officials are authorized to execute all necessary documents to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

Section 6: This Resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Weston, Florida, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 2012.

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Eric M. Hersh, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Patricia A. Bates, City Clerk

Approved as to form and legality  
for the use of and reliance by the  
City of Weston only:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamie Alan Cole, City Attorney

Roll Call:  
Commissioner Henriksson \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Feuer \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Norton \_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner Gomez \_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Hersh \_\_\_\_\_