



AGENDA ITEM MEMORADUM

Town Manager

Connie Hoffmann

Department

Department Director

COMMISSION MEETING DATE (*) - 7:00 PM	Deadline to Town Clerk
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 28, 2012	Feb 17
<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 13, 2012	Mar 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Mar 27, 2012	Mar 16
<input type="checkbox"/> April 10, 2012	Mar 30
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> April 24, 2012	Apr 13

***Subject to Change**

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

FY2012 DESIGNATED HIGH PRIORITY ITEM - PRIORITY TOPIC

SUBJECT TITLE: BROWARD COUNTY CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

EXPLANATION: As the Commission is aware, Broward County for the past several years has voiced their unhappiness with the inequitable funding of the 11 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) that dispatch responses to emergency calls for police, fire and medical services.

Some cities (like Lauderdale-by-the-Sea) receive dispatch services at no cost via the Broward Sheriff's Office's PSAP so, effectively, their dispatch services are funded through County ad valorem taxes. Other cities such as Pompano Beach, Fort Lauderdale, and Hollywood staff and pay for their own PSAPs. (The County used to fund the Fort Lauderdale and Pompano PSAPs but quit funding both cities PSAPs in last two years.) The County has suggested several times that cities like Lauderdale-by-the-Sea that are served by BSO's PSAP pay their proportional share of dispatch costs.

The Police Chief's Association, the Fire Chief's Association, the Broward City County Manager's Association, the Board of Directors of the Broward League of Cities, and Fire-Rescue Services Council have all voted in support for cooperative consolidation of PSAPs in order to improve the quality and timeliness of dispatch service to Broward residents and visitors and to control costs, however, how the PSAPs would be funded has always been a stumbling block. Several cities have no interest in consolidation whatsoever, as they want to control dispatch in their cities.

The Broward County Consolidated Communications Committee was formed last fall and tasked with the developing a plan for cooperative consolidation of 911 calls answering and dispatch. The County Commission, the five groups noted above appointed members to serve on this Committee and their report is attached.

The Committee states their goals were to:

1. Improve service & safety for residents and emergency personnel;
2. Eliminate delays in the transfer of emergency calls;
3. Establish consistent performance metrics;
4. Employ the best technology available to expedite emergency response;
5. Facilitate closest unit response.

And they stated "There may be an ability to conserve resources by reducing the number of dispatch center, thus reducing the financial burden on taxpayers.



Their recommendations on governance, funding and operations are:

Governance

There must be:

- There must be representation by the participating cities on the governing board;
- a professional management structure;
- Transparent reporting of performance metrics & funding
- Direct oversight of the Executive Director by the governing board.

Funding

- Broward County should maintain no less than its current dollar level of funding for the new consolidated operation for approximately 3 years.
- The County's funding in future years should stay in the same proportion as its initial funding of the consolidated organization.
- The gap between the County's funding and the operational costs of the consolidated organization should be funded through a Municipal Services Taxing Unit, which would levy an ad valorem tax.

Operations

Their analysis indicates that communications *could* be handled from a single site, but that no existing site exists that could serve the purpose. Therefore, they suggest there be three PSAPs.

The Committee recommended that an Implementation Board be created, comprised of the City Managers/Administrators of all interested cities, the Broward County Administrator, the Sheriff or his designee and a representative from the both the Police Chief's Association and the Fire Chief's Association. They indicate that Board will need funding for professional evaluation of sites for dispatch centers, development of sops for the centers, inter-local agreements, budgets and the funding plan.

This report was delivered to the County Commission in early March and on March 27th the Board of County Commissioners approved the recommendation to create the recommended Implementation Board and indicated a willingness to fund some of the Board's work.

I have agreed to serve on the Implementation Board and will keep the Commission advised of any significant developments.

Reviewed by Town Attorney
 Yes No

Town Manager Initials CA