Resolution to declare the City of Spokane's intent to explore the integration of integrated Regional communications throughout the City and County recommended to do so by the Regional Governance Committee.

Summary (Background)

The City of Spokane and Spokane County respectively under OPR 2015-0074 and Resolution No. 16-0755 established a Regional Governance Committee and created a position of Regional Project Manager whose function is responsible for the oversight and implementation of projects. The committee has recommended a need to integrate emergency communications between the City and County of Spokane. This Resolution authorized the research phase of the proposed integration.

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ADOPTED BY
SPokane CITY COUNCIL:
9/11/2017

CITY CLERK
RESOLUTION NO. 2017-0080

A resolution declaring the City of Spokane's intent to explore the potential integration of 911 Emergency Communication, Dispatch, Non-Emergency Crime Reporting and Emergency Communication.

WHEREAS, Spokane County has established a 911 Emergency Communications Department; and

WHEREAS, the Spokane County Sheriff provides certain dispatch services for governmental entities within Spokane County; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane provides certain dispatch services to its various departments; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane administration and Spokane County respectively, under a memorandum of understanding (OPR 2015-0074, dated Jan. 30, 2017) and Spokane County Resolution No. 16-0755 established a Regional Governance Committee to have various responsibilities, including among others "... address issues of discussion for other regional projects in addition to those within this Agreement."; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane and Spokane County, pursuant to Spokane County Resolution No. 17-0121 (Jan. 30, 2017) created a position of Regional Project Manager whose function is responsible for the oversight and implementation of projects and/or programs authorized by the Regional Governance Committee; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane and Spokane County desire to acknowledge the recommendation of the Regional Governance Committee and further explore the feasibility of further efforts of the Regional Governance Committee and Project Manager, recognizing collective bargaining obligation(s) with respect to combining/integrating 911, dispatch, non-emergency crime reporting and emergency communications between the City of Spokane and Spokane County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council for the City of Spokane that the City Council does hereby acknowledge the recommendation of the Regional Governance Committee with respect to combining/integrating 911, dispatch, non-emergency crime reporting and emergency communications between the City of Spokane and County, recognizing collective bargaining obligation(s) with respect to such efforts/actions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT solutions implemented to achieve this integration will not result in the direct job loss for any employee currently within the emergency communications response departments for the City of Spokane and will provide the same or greater level of service delivery for constituents at an equal or lesser cost. A normalization period of no more than two (2) years will be allowed for budget fluctuations while the new structure is implemented. Following the Integrated Response
research effort phase, if anticipated savings and efficiencies are not realized or anticipated in financial and operational implementation plans, the City of Spokane may elect to not proceed.

Adopted this 11th day of September, 2017.

[Signature]
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

[Signature]
Assistant City Attorney
The Inland Empire Fire Chief's Association reaffirms its commitment to the integration of emergency communication systems and communication processes in the Inland Empire. Furthermore, the Chief's Association supports the following guiding principles as the Emergency Communications Policy Board continues to work collaboratively in this process:

- A model that prioritizes service to our citizens and the first responders who answer that call

- A model that ensures an inter-agency approach to robust communications and interoperability that requires a collaborative and consensus-based decision-making process while having enough flexibility to meet the needs of the individual agencies represented

- A model that prevents unilateral decision making or actions by any participating agency.

- Continual evaluation of spending priorities and ensuring that projects are fully funded based upon their priority

To further these principles, the Chief's Association recommends a balanced governance model that equally represents the members of law enforcement and fire service agencies. As such, the Association recommends the addition of a position to the proposed Governance Board who is a Chief Fire Officer appointed by the EMS Council. The Chiefs association also emphasizes its commitment to working collaboratively as an equal partner.
Spokane Emergency Communications Integration

Letter of Intent to support the integration of regional emergency communications functions and infrastructure in Spokane County

August 17th, 2017

Spokane’s emergency communications agencies and supporting infrastructure have long functioned at a high level but have done so from segmented governing, organizational, funding and technical platforms. We recognize this structure is no longer optimal.

It is our intent to support the smooth transition from our current structure to an integrated, self governing organization that provides high quality emergency communications services to the citizens of Spokane County. While this letter is not an express commitment to a specific organizational model, it is a commitment to support movement towards integration while retaining high levels of service.

Therefore, we the undersigned leaders of the region’s public safety agencies, join with elected officials in Spokane County and City of Spokane in expressing our intent to fully engage in the creation of an integrated emergency communications center that

- Preserves and promotes excellent levels of emergency dispatch service to public safety agencies
- Preserves and promotes professional 9-1-1 and Crime Check services
- Integrates and builds on current approaches to Police, Sheriff and Fire Dispatch services
- Preserves User Agency voice in service level agreements and service level delivery
- Seeks and implements long range system efficiencies in technology and workflow
- Creates an organizational and governance structure that ensures excellent service delivery

This integration project will ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the engagement of all key stakeholders at strategic and tactical levels throughout. This project will also seek to preserve employment for all current employees who want to remain in current or similar jobs and work within current budget and fee structures to enable seamless transition.
We understand that a project of this complexity will take time and therefore expect legal organizational structure to be created first, leadership team development second, with operational planning and enhancements to follow. The integration project will occur in stages and expect completion of the legal and governance structure to occur within 18-24 months.

Signatures:
Agency

Spokane County Sheriff's Office
Spokane Valley Police Department
Airway Heights Police Department
Liberty Lake Police Department
Eastern Washington University Police
Kailispel Tribal Police

Spokane Police Department
BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER THE INTEGRATION OF
911 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS,
DISPATCH, NON-EMERGENCY CRIME
REPORTING AND EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS

RESOLUTION
OF
INTENT

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.32.120(6), the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, Washington (“Board”) has the care of county property and the management of county funds and business; and

WHEREAS, Spokane County has established a 911 Emergency Communications Department; and

WHEREAS, the Spokane County Sheriff provides certain dispatch services for governmental entities within Spokane County; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane provides certain dispatch services to its various departments; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane and Spokane County respectively under OPR 2015-0074 and Resolution No. 16-0755 established a Regional Governance Committee to have various responsibilities, including among others “… address issues of discussion for other regional projects in addition to those within this Agreement.”; and

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane and Spokane County under Resolution No. 17-0121 created a position of Regional Project Manager whose function is responsible for the oversight and implementation of projects and/or programs authorized by the Regional Governance Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Governance Committee has recommended a need to integrate 911, dispatch, non-emergency crime reporting and emergency communications between the City of Spokane and Spokane County for various reasons, including among others:

1) An acknowledgement that the Greater Spokane Region services the largest population base between Minneapolis, Minnesota and Seattle, Washington. As such, many issues often only encountered by urban metropolitan areas many times our size, are daily issues faced by local public safety agencies and their leadership. A combination of resources is the only way to achieve, and maintain, the level of response needed to provide services for our community to ensure proper safety for citizens and the responders, and
(2) A need to integrate 911, dispatch, non-emergency crime reporting and emergency communications is central to create a sustainable model for the future to continue to provide the highest quality response possible as political and environmental factors threaten to limit provisioning resources. Hence, the current 911 emergency communications and dispatch model must be revised.

WHEREAS, the City of Spokane and County desire to acknowledge the recommendation of the Regional Governance Committee and further explore the recommendation through further efforts of the Regional Governance Committee and Project Manager recognizing collective bargaining obligation(s) with respect to combining/integrating 911, dispatch, non-emergency crime reporting and emergency communications between the City of Spokane and Spokane County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Spokane County, Washington, pursuant to the provisions of RCW 36.32.120(6), that the Board does hereby acknowledge the recommendation of the Regional Governance Committee with respect to combining/integrating 911, dispatch, non-emergency crime reporting and emergency communications between the City of Spokane and County recognizing the County’s obligation(s) to engage in collective bargaining pursuant to chapter 41.56 RCW and recommendation(s) from the Emergency Communications Advisory Board (911).

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 10th day of July, 2017.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

AL FRENCH, Chair

JOSH KERNS, Vice-Chair

Ginna Vasquez, Clerk of the Board

SHELLEY O’QUINN, Commissioner
July 26, 2017

Regional Governance Committee

RE: Spokane County Integrated Emergency Communications

Dear committee members;

The Spokane Valley Fire Department Board of Fire Commissioners recognizes the need for an integrated and modern approach to emergency communications within Spokane County. The integration of 911, fire/police dispatch, the radio communications system, and non-emergency crime reporting will represent a big step forward in regional communications within Spokane County while bringing our system more in alignment with recognized “best practices” within the industry. The effective and efficient use of resources is critical for the sustainability of this public system and to continue providing our citizens and responders with the levels of service and safety that they expect into the future.

The SVFD Board of Commissioners fully endorses this project as it moves forward and offers to partner in any way necessary to see that our emergency communications system continues to improve in its effectiveness and efficiency while providing the citizens of Spokane County with excellent emergency communications and response capabilities.

Sincerely,

Michael O Pearson, Chairperson
Spokane Valley Fire Department
Board of Fire Commissioners
July 26, 2017

Regional Governance Committee

RE: Spokane County Integrated Emergency Communications

Dear committee members;

The Spokane Valley Fire Department Board of Fire Commissioners recognizes the need for an integrated and modern approach to emergency communications within Spokane County. The integration of 911, fire/police dispatch, the radio communications system, and non-emergency crime reporting will represent a big step forward in regional communications within Spokane County while bringing our system more in alignment with recognized “best practices” within the industry. The effective and efficient use of resources is critical for the sustainability of this public system and to continue providing our citizens and responders with the levels of service and safety that they expect into the future.

The SVFD Board of Commissioners fully endorses this project as it moves forward and offers to partner in any way necessary to see that our emergency communications system continues to improve in its effectiveness and efficiency while providing the citizens of Spokane County with excellent emergency communications and response capabilities.

Sincerely,

Michael O Pearson, Chairperson
Spokane Valley Fire Department
Board of Fire Commissioners