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STEVE TATE
Mayor

August 25, 2011

FILED

AUG 31 2011

DAVID H. YAMASAKI
Chief Executive Officer/Clerk
Superior Court of CA County of Santa Clara
BY D. ALDYCKI

Honorable Richard J. Loftus, Jr.
Presiding Judge
Santa Clara County Superior Court
191 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95113

RE: City of Morgan Hill response to “Can You Hear Me Now” Emergency Dispatch in Santa Clara County.

Dear Judge Loftus:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and respond to the 2010-2011 Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury’s Report, “Can You Hear Me Now?” Emergency Dispatch in Santa Clara County.

Finding 1

Dispatch consolidation would result in more cost-effective and efficient emergency response and should be implemented throughout Santa Clara County.

Recommendation 1

Jurisdictions which maintain their own dispatching centers: Campbell, Gilroy, Los Altos, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Palo Alto, San Jose, the City of Santa Clara, and Sunnyvale and all jurisdictions that use Santa Clara County Communications for dispatch: Cupertino, Los Altos Hills and Saratoga should consolidate dispatch with neighboring jurisdictions and, where appropriate, should issue RFP’s to do so.

Response to recommendation 1: Agree

The complete study and analysis of regional dispatch is a high priority for County Police Chiefs as evidenced by multiple meetings on the topic in the past year. Several agencies are exploring varying models of collaboration to include virtual and traditional brick and mortar regionalization. Since the role of the dispatcher plays a key part in the successful delivery of safety in our communities, agencies are deliberate in their review to help ensure the highest quality service.

Finding 2

Radio equipment has not been standardized and impedes effective countywide communication and emergency dispatch

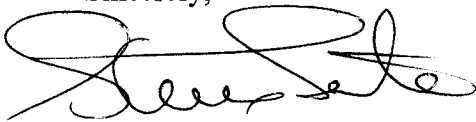
Recommendation 2

Jurisdictions which maintain their own dispatching centers: Campbell, Gilroy, Los Altos, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Palo Alto, San Jose, the City of Santa Clara, and Sunnyvale; all jurisdictions which use Santa Clara County Communications for dispatch: Cupertino, Los Altos Hills, and Saratoga; the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office; and Santa Clara County, should continue to work with the Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Association to achieve countywide standardization of radio technology.

Response to recommendation 2: Agree

A county-wide interoperable radio system is in the planning stages. The Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority is preparing a formal request for proposal to be released in late 2011. A project of this magnitude requires significant infrastructure investment funded through sources not yet identified. Until a project funding stream is identified, this project will receive priority funding for Homeland Security Grants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Tate", with a large, stylized initial "S" and "T".

Steve Tate
Mayor
City of Morgan Hill