



Incorporated October 22, 1956

# CITY OF SARATOGA

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## FILED

AUG 31 2011

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

August 18, 2011

Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury  
Office of the Civil Grand Jury  
c/o Honorable Richard J. Loftus, Jr.  
Presiding Judge  
Santa Clara County Superior Court  
191 North First Street  
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: 2010-2011 SANTA CLARA COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT REGARDING  
"CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?" EMERGENCY DISPATCH IN SANTA CLARA  
COUNTY"

Honorable Members of the Civil Grand Jury:

The City Council for the City of Saratoga has reviewed your June 15, 2011 report regarding "Can You Hear Me Now?" Emergency Dispatch in Santa Clara County ("Report") and authorized me to provide this response. The City Council appreciates the thorough and deliberate work of the Civil Grand Jury and the Grand Jury's attention to the important issue of radio interoperability. The City of Saratoga has devoted considerable resources to promoting radio interoperability in Santa Clara County.

With respect to the specific applicable findings and recommendations in the Report, the City's response is set forth below:

*Finding 1:*

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

The City agrees.

*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 which use Santa Clara County*

*Communications for dispatch—Cupertino, Los Altos Hills, and Saratoga— should consolidate dispatch with neighboring jurisdictions and, where appropriate, should issue RFPs to do so.*

The City will implement the recommendation to the extent practicable given that the City does not operate a police or fire department. The Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department providing police services to the City and the independent fire districts serving City residents already have consolidated operations with neighboring jurisdictions. The City will urge those organizations to consider further consolidation subject to terms and conditions that maintain effective dispatch operations for existing residents and businesses served by the consolidated dispatch operations. This action will be completed by September 30, 2011.

*Finding 2:*

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

The City agrees.

*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.*

The recommendation has been implemented. The City Manager and Mayor worked with the Santa Clara County/Cities Managers' Association to have the Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Association formalized as a joint powers agency to provide stability of long term service and to facilitate coordination and resource sharing among member agencies. The City Manager serves as one of the Board Members of the Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Association.

Thank you for your consideration of this response.

Sincerely,



Howard A. Miller  
Mayor, City of Saratoga

Cc: Members of the Saratoga City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney