

Talking points; PS&RS (11/10/04)

Discussion of Hennepin County Resolution on “no cost” dispatching

- Good afternoon, Chairman Niziolek and members of the Committee; for the record, my name is John Dejung, the Minneapolis 9-1-1 Director.
- You can see from the Committee Action request before you that HC Resolution 04-8-390 offers Minneapolis no-cost 9-1-1 call answering and dispatching via the HC Sheriff's Office Dispatch organization. The resolution calls for a letter of intent to the Sheriff from the City of Minneapolis no later than November 30, the end of this month, indicating if Mpls wants to pursue this offer. And, if not, the Resolution says that the offer will not again be available for a period of at least 8 years.
- A cover letter to the City from Sandra Vargas and Sheriff McGowan clarified that the only financial commitment would be to buy 800 MHz radios (which is already done for Mpls). The letter also indicated, though, that we must ensure that MDT's (squad/fire rig computers) must be compatible with the County system and we must utilize the Sheriff's Office dispatch protocols. Currently, the mobile computing/dispatching software for Mpls and HC are not the same; further, both organizations are in the process of acquiring new and possibly different mobile connection software. The mobile connection software that I am referring to provides the ability to the squads/rigs to receive voiceless CAD dispatches over the air and further allows the squads to check databases such as CAPRS, DMV, and NCIC data.
- Despite this assurance of no or low cost, it is recognized that the HCSO facility could not absorb the activity/staff of MECC which is bigger and busier than the existing HCSO dispatch center. Comparative numbers are listed in your packet.
- During a meeting with the Sheriff and Deputy County Administrator last week, it was indicated to me, the City Coordinator, and CM Niziolek that a letter indicating a conditional answer would be acceptable. Therefore, the Council Action request recommends a letter that requests a joint, half-year study of the feasibility, cost-savings and service level that could be attained by *MERGING* MECC and HCSO Dispatch. Following that study, it is recommended that the letter indicate that a joint decision be made by the City Council and County Board.
- Before Q & A, I'd like to cite a handful of items from the State PSAP Consolidation Study dated February 2004. First, from the Executive Summary (summarize points 1, 5, and 7); second, from the Final Recommendations (page 109; points 1, 2, 3, & 5).
- I would be glad to answer questions about this proposal, my “position paper” that I have included in your decision packet, my knowledge gained from both a State study on consolidating 9-1-1 Centers and one done by a consortium of Hennepin County suburbs on the same subject.