



OFFICE OF MAYOR GAYLE McLAUGHLIN

November 14, 2007

2007-2008 Contra Costa County Grand Jury
Mr. Jerry R. Holcombe, Foreperson
725 Court Street
P.O. Box 911
Martinez, CA 94553-0091

Dear Mr. Holcombe,

In accordance with Section 933.5(a), please find more detailed responses to the findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury included in the letter dated May 18, 2007.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The recommendation has been implemented

A draft of the automatic aid agreement between the City of Richmond and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District was presented to the Richmond City Council at the July 17, 2007 meeting. There are still some changes that must occur in this agreement before it is brought back to the City Council in its final form.

2. The recommendation has not yet been implemented

The Richmond Fire Department has been working with Pam Dodson from the Contra Costa Emergency Medical Services office to determine the appropriate course of action for implementation of a paramedic program. The first step is to upgrade our current E.M.T. program to enhanced E.M.T. status. This will take approximately three months to accomplish. In approximately six months a paramedic pilot program involving one engine company can be implemented. The goal is to gradually have at least one licensed paramedic on all engine companies. Other considerations are negotiations with the Firefighters bargaining unit over a change in working conditions and to greatly improve diversity within the paramedic applicant pool so that more African-Americans, Latinos, Asians and Women are included.

3. The recommendation has been implemented

The Richmond Fire Department, Police Department and Public Works Department with approval from the City Manager and the City Council have become members of the East Bay Regional Communications System (EBRCS) Joint Powers Authority

(JPA). This J. P.A. was formed in order to create an 800MHz radio system that will dispatch and link Fire, Police and Public Works entities throughout Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. Anticipated completion date of the system is approximately 2 years.

4. The recommendation has been implemented

The City of Richmond has signed a letter of intent and a joint powers agreement to become a member of the East Bay Regional Communicators System. Funds for this purpose are in the current budget.

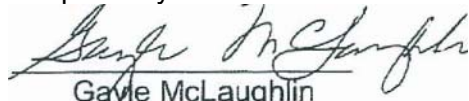
5. The recommendation has not yet been implemented

The Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) system would have to be an added component to the New World Computer Aided Dispatch System utilized in the Richmond Police/Fire Dispatch Center. The estimated cost of this system is \$45,000 Additional funding would be required before acquisition and implementation occurred. The Richmond Fire Department has already been programmed into Contra Costa County Fire's AVL system and has been an active user for over a year.

6. The recommendation has not yet been implemented

The Richmond Fire Department on behalf of the City of Richmond is working with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District to finalize a permanent automatic aid agreement in the next six months. the current preliminary automatic aid agreement has a formula for payment that will reimburse the appropriate fire agency for the net difference in calls.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Richmond City Council,



Gayle McLaughlin
Mayor, City of Richmond

CC: Michael Banks- City of Richmond, Fire Chief