



MIAMI BEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Kathie G. Brooks, Interim City Manager

DATE: February 6, 2013

SUBJECT: **REFERRAL TO THE FINANCE AND CITYWIDE PROJECTS COMMITTEE, A DISCUSSION TO CONSIDER REPLACEMENT OF THE CITY'S PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO SYSTEM WITH A NEW P25 COMPLIANT SYSTEM BEFORE THE FEDERALLY MANDATED 2016 TIMEFRAME.**

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION

Refer the item to the Finance and Citywide Projects Committee for discussion.

BACKGROUND

The City of Miami Beach, the Licensee, operates a Motorola equipped 800 MHz 10 channel trunked Public Safety Radio System, the System, in its designated Federal Communication Commission, FCC, jurisdiction. The System is currently on year eight (8) of a ten (10) year life cycle and it is not Project 25 (P25), compliant as defined by federal P25 standards. The City's goal is to replace the System with a new P25 compliant system before the 2016 timeframe. The system replacement time cycle, based on procurement of the existing system, is over two (2) years from issuance of the RFP to acceptance of a working system.

P25 is a suite of standards for digital radio communications for use of interoperability by federal, state and local public safety agencies in North America to enable them to communicate with other agencies and mutual aid response teams in emergencies. The FCC has issued a directive that all 800 MHz systems will be "narrowbanded" in the 2016 timeframe. Narrowbanding is the process by which frequency space is narrowed from approximately 25 KHz to 12.5 KHz for each licensed frequency, thus increasing the amount of available radio spectrum. The main type of systems easily, and cost effectively, capable of being narrowbanded in such a fashion are P25 compliant systems. Both the infrastructure and the subscriber components of a radio system must be P25 compliant for full interagency interoperability to exist.

CONCLUSION

The Administration recommends that the Mayor and the City Commission refer the matter to the Finance and Citywide Projects Committee for discussion and further direction.

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