

**City of Coral Gables City Commission Meeting
Agenda Item H-1
January 28, 2015
City Commission Chambers
405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, FL**

City Commission

Mayor Jim Cason

Vice Mayor William H. Kerdyk, Jr.

Commissioner Pat Keon

Commissioner Vince Lago

Commissioner Frank Quesada

City Staff

City Manager, Cathy Swanson-Rivenbark

City Attorney, Craig E. Leen

City Clerk, Walter J. Foeman

Deputy City Clerk, Billy Urquia

Chief Procurement Officer, Mike Pounds

Police Chief Ed Hudak

Fire Chief Mark Stolzenberg

Radio Technician, Jason Swift

Public Speaker(s)

Agenda Item H-1 [Start: 10:08:20 a.m.]

A Resolution accepting the recommendation of the Chief Procurement Officer for the purchase and installation of a P-25 Phase II Linear Simulcast Trunked Digital Radio System from Communications International (CI) under its contract with Hillsborough County Sherriff's Office, pursuant to Section 2-978, Use of Other Governmental Unit Contracts ("piggyback") of the Procurement Code.

Mayor Cason: Let's do H-1 and then we'll do the other discussion items. City Manager.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Yes sir. As you remember you authorized the Sunshine State Loan Fund, 2.5 percent, 15-year fixed, for the purchase of radios for public safety. We have our consultant here to answer questions. We have Mike Pounds to speak on the procurement process, and we have Chief Hudak and Chief Stolzenberg to speak on the department needs. I'm very

happy that both the Police Department and the Fire Department are enthusiastically in support of the way that this is being presented and we have staff to answer, as well as our consultants.

Mayor Cason: Mr. Pounds do you want to talk about the process?

Mr. Pounds: We have chosen the “piggyback” as the source selection because it allows for the most timely procurement of this equipment. It’s been reported to us by the Police Department that we are in a situation where we need to acquire this equipment as soon as possible. It was recommended by the consultant that we look at the Hillsborough County Sherriff’s contract, that’s a very good contract that’s been used by much larger entities than us, such as the City of Tampa, County of Hillsborough County, not just the Sherriff’s department, but the county. In fact, they use this contract to purchase radio equipment for a political convention, a major political convention that occurred in Tampa. So it was a very large purchase. So we believe that this is a very competitive contract, it meets our requirements under Section 2-978, and it’s been competitively solicited as an RFP, and it is also an active contract. Again, the main purpose of using the “piggyback” is so that we can move in a most expeditious manner and buy this equipment.

Mayor Cason: And the two systems are compatible?- talk to each other?

Mr. Pounds: The equipment that we have that we are proposing is compatible with the equipment that we will remain – I’ll rather not speak on that subject because that’s not my area of expertise, but it’s my understanding it allows for inter-operability with other agencies, and also allows for compatibility with what equipment we will retain.

Mayor Cason: Cathy, do you have any other people who want to speak on this?

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Yes. I’d like to have both the two Chiefs come forward and speak on the item. It’s a significant purchase, but it is also a significant improvement on public safety communication.

Mayor Cason: Chief Hudak why don’t we start with you?

Chief Hudak: Good morning Commissioners. For radio communication for police officers it’s the best of two. Most bad guys can outrun most cops, they cannot run a radio. Life safety issues that is our lifeline to communications to everybody else. That being said, looking at this holistically for the whole City, because the radio shop or the radio technicians fall under police, this is also going to replace everything throughout the entire City. It is compatible, we’ve looked at – we worked with the consultants from the beginning, and the current state of the dispatch

center and the Police Department that handles both police and fire, we need to go as quickly as possible just because of the age of the system. I think the technology from the police side isn't compatible with other agencies, as we continue to cross our borders and work with other departments. This is going to make our job easier to communicate immediately back and forth. So we are comfortable with the consultant's recommendations; I believe you are looking at the totality of the package, the radios that we are buying. This purchase is for the entire City, and it was never except for the fire department, because the Chief has different needs for the fire, which kind of uses their radios in a different sense.

Fire Chief Stolzenberg: Good morning. The agreement with the radio shop and the Police Department as far as communications is going, the consultant has been very forthcoming and the Fire Department is very supportive of the direction that this procurement process is going. The needs for the radios in particular, that the Chief was talking about, is really just the handheld radios and the ability to offer functions that are specific to the Fire Department – more or less user-friendly, insulated from water protection, different types of lights, but their compatibilities is the same. So we are very happy to move forward with the type of radio that we are going with on the mobile side. The truck mounted radio offers the inter-operability with other agencies as well as agencies within our City. So again, we are excited with it and we hope to move forward with it.

Mayor Cason: When will you expect to have, if we approve this today, the finances are already in place, we've done that, so when would the...

Chief Hudak: I believe we are going to wait for the consultant, as far as implementation. If this is passed today, we can get back to you with an answer for exactly when the implementation phase will be. I know our employees have been put in place already, so we've already started looking at some of the console replacements, which starts in the communication center, and then as it spreads out throughout everybody in the City. Our communications center and the Police Department does have radio contact with every employee that has a radio, so eventually as we get to replace that out we can get back to you with an exact timeline of when that would be. But I would hope to say at year's end into early 2016, we should be complete. We give periodic updates through the Manager's Office about how that's going, working with the consultant.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: And Mr. Mayor this was an anticipated purchase, we are following the Procurement Code, it's in our budget, we know what the debt service is, we have an excellent rate of purchasing it. So it is not an emergency item, this has been well thought out, and we recommend this item.

Mayor Cason: Any discussion?

Commissioner Keon: Do the radios that we have, have the ability to also communicate with other municipalities?- other police departments, like the County, or whatever?- or are the radio system different with a different jurisdiction?

Fire Chief Stolzenberg: There are different functions and some of the specifics, the communications experts, but we do have the ability whether we go through the communications center to make patches and some of these new radios will have the new platform, which is the P-25 platform, which will enable some inter-operability on the actual radios.

Commissioner Keon: Oh good.

Chief Hudak: But on the police side, we've done a couple of different things over the years. Actually, for the marine patrol, we actually asked the County to give us one channel on our radio, so the boats on the water can talk to one another with the County Marine Patrol. In SWAT, we have one extra channel on our radio, that is a county channel where we can talk if we were working jointly with the County SWAT teams. We don't have that ability with, I'm sorry, with the City SWAT teams; we do not have that ability. What this does now is, if you would think about usually, if we want to talk to other agencies and police, including aviation units, which happens on a regular basis, we have to essentially do what we call a conference call or a transfer on your phone, the patch system, or the dispatcher has to get involved to continue to monitor that and then everybody else can hear it. It's not an ideal situation. We believe that this trunk system, this new P-25 system, we are going to put all of us, so if we want to talk directly to West Miami, South Miami, Pinecrest, we are going to be able to do that much better and much more efficiently than what we currently have now. In reality it's hit or miss and sometimes it takes a yeoman's task on the communication operators position to task that in, as well as continue to operate the rest of the radios for officers in our City that are working, and then you have multiple dispatchers. So we believe this is going to be a much safer way, a much more efficient way to move forward in a global countywide perspective.

Commissioner Keon: I'm just thinking, if there was either any sort of a disaster of any type that would require multiple jurisdictions to come together that you all would be able to speak to one another.

Chief Hudak: Yes. The one thing that will not change is in the police communications dispatch area, we have what we call the inner city channel, and that is where all agency communications centers talk together. As recently as last night, one of our officers driving home was behind a DUI (Driving Under the Influence) and they got on inner city to get assistance from FHP (Florida Highway Patrol) and the County to stop this person who was drunk, who had an

accident on the way home. Again, that makes it even easier where we can just put that officer's radio in touch – because I was actually on my way home and went by, but it was kind of difficult to find him for a few minutes because he was outside of his element, so I believe that's going to be a safer way to operate with this radio system.

Commissioner Keon: So this system will better facilitate?

Chief Hudak: Yes. The options of this system has is there is inter-operability and we can literally talk to directly to our counterparts in other cities, as those emergencies go by. The whole contingent plan that's falls under fire for disasters is we just purchased the satellite communication system, as well and that all kind of works with the EOC (Emergency Operation Center), which Mark runs, so that's...

Commissioner Keon: Thank you.

Mayor Cason: What are you going to do with your old stuff?- is any of that useful for anybody else? I'm thinking of Sister Cities.

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: I'm sorry, can you come up to the microphone for the record.

Mayor Cason: Because I'm thinking we've been very generous in donating fire equipment to one of our Sister Cities, but if any of these items still work it might be great to offer them to some of our Sister Cities.

Chief Hudak: We are going to bring the consultant and our head radio technician up. Jason Swift is the head of the radio service for the City, as well as our consultant, so they could probably answer your question.

Mayor Cason: OK. Thank you.

Mr. Swift: Good morning. To address your point about the...

Commissioner Quesada: Speak into the microphone – they can't hear you at home.

Mr. Swift: OK. To address your point or question about the future of the old equipment, it does have some residual value, but we do have to be careful what we do with it because it, has some State Department expert controls on it, it is somewhat encrypted. So if we are thinking Sister Cities we have to be a little careful with what we do with that.

Mayor Cason: But they would still work without the bay stations, will they talk to each other?

City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark: Mr. Mayor, let us come back to you with a recommendation as to what we would like to do or what we would want you to consider with this surplus equipment and I think then we'll have more information. This is Jason Swift, he looks all duded up and sharp, but he's us, just to let you know (laughter).

Mayor Cason: Unlike his normal appearance.

[Laughter]

Mayor Cason: A part from the expert controls please come back – it would be instead of dumping some of this stuff, it could be very useful to others that we interact with.

Mr. Swift: We'll explore that.

Mayor Cason: OK. Thank you.

Mr. Swift: Thank you.

Commissioner Lago: Thank you gentlemen.

Mayor Cason: Alright – do we have a motion on H-1? Let's start again, who makes the motion? You want to make the motion. Frank Quesada makes the motion and the Vice Mayor seconds. City Clerk.

Vice Mayor Kerdyk: Yes

Commissioner Lago: Yes

Commissioner Quesada: Yes

Commissioner Keon: Yes

Mayor Cason: Yes

(Vote: 5-0)

Mayor Cason: Thank you very much.

[End: 10:20:25 a.m.]