



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Steve Victor, Deputy City Attorney
COPY: CVS Committee; Linda Stewart, Director Neighborhood and Community Services
PRESENTER: Steve Victor, Deputy City Attorney
SUBJECT: Proposed SS 911 Restructure
DATE: June 13, 2019

PRESENTATION TYPE:

Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

Steve Victor will provide an update on the proposed restructuring of South Sound 911, including governance changes.

BACKGROUND:

For the last three years, administrative representatives of all jurisdictions participating in the interlocal agreement for South Sound 911 (SS 911) have been meeting to address certain perceived issues associated with the structure and governance of SS 911 (the Executive Leadership Team/ELT). The primary forces of this work was to address three issues:

1. As an Interlocal Agency, SS 911 has no corporate form. As a result, SS 911 cannot legally contain liabilities, which could flow proportionately to every member of the SS 911 Interlocal Agreement. (Fife, Pierce County, Puyallup, Lakewood, Tacoma, and West Pierce Fire District.)
2. The Executive Director and therefore, the administration of SS 911, is hired by and accountable directly to a Board comprised of appointed officials (the Operations Board), rather than the Policy Board for the organization which is comprised of elected officials from the six jurisdictions.
3. The focus of South Sound 911 on call taking and dispatch being confused with public safety radio infrastructure and operations, which are primarily owned and operated by Pierce County and Tacoma, with a small sub-system still owned by Puyallup.

The representatives of the six jurisdictions have arrived at unanimous recommendations on all issues. With regard to the first two issues, the ELT recommends addressing both by restructuring SS 911 as a public corporation (Public Development Authority "PA"). As a PA, SS 911 can lawfully contract, operate and contain liability as any other municipal corporation.

This reorganization would also result in the Executive Director hired by and the administration reporting directly to a Board of Directors comprised of elected officials representing all customer jurisdictions.

The process to consider this reorganization proposal begins with the governing bodies of each of the six participating jurisdictions considering an interlocal agreement to terminate the existing SS 911 structure and approve the form of a new SS 911 municipal corporation charter. If all six jurisdictions approve the interlocal agreement, then the full Tacoma City Council will be asked to consider creating the new municipal corporation. Though Tacoma would charter the new corporation, Tacoma does not incur any additional risk or liability.



The radio issue was resolved by a consensus that SS 911 should be focused on call taking and dispatch, not radio communications. The City and County are currently working together on outreach to radio customers, and review of future joint actions to improve the public safety radio system countywide.

ISSUE:

This is an informational briefing only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.