



Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Fahey and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM: Dennis Groat, Fire Chief

DATE: May 3, 2005

SUBJECT: Presentation on Radio Interoperability for Emergency Response Agencies and Recognition of Fire Captain John Grimaldi for his Contributions to this Process.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council Receive and File a presentation from the Fire Department on radio interoperability for emergency response agencies and recognize Fire Captain John Grimaldi for his contributions to this process.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

There are no fiscal implications associated with staff's recommendation.

BACKGROUND:

In a post 9-11 world, public safety agencies in L.A. County and through-out the Nation have recognized the need for radio communications interoperability. Fire, Law, EMS, and Federal responders operate on a variety of frequencies and radio systems. During emergencies, the ability to easily communicate via radio is limited.

DISCUSSION:

Initial estimates to study, design, procure, and place in to service a viable radio communication interoperability system in the County of Los Angeles, indicated many years of effort and millions of dollars in cost.

A group of talented and dedicated public service professionals began to meet for the purpose of finding another way of doing business. Out of these collaborations, emerged the Los Angeles Radio Tactical Communications System (LARTCS). This group found that by using existing infrastructure, new technology, and overcoming agency and jurisdictional hindrances, they could engineer a radio communications interoperability system that would serve Federal, State, County, and City first responders. Early in this process, Manhattan Beach Fire Department Captain John Grimaldi was appointed as chair of the Operations group of the LARTCS.

The response to the success of this project has been overwhelming. In addition, the Federal Homeland Security Department has recognized the value of this system and has adopted it as the National Model for radio communications interoperability.

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In addition to his local involvement in LARTCS, Captain Grimaldi has been asked to participate on the National level to bring public safety radio interoperability to the rest of the Country.

CONCLUSION:

To further explain this program to the City Council, Captain John Grimaldi will be making a power point presentation.