

RESOLUTION NO. 12-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING THE CITY'S SUPPORT FOR THE ADOPTION OF A PLAN FOR COOPERATIVE COUNTYWIDE CONSOLIDATION OF E-911 COMMUNICATIONS AND DISPATCH WHOLLY FUNDED THROUGH COUNTY AD VALOREM TAXES.

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WHEREAS, prior to 1992, there were several E-911 dispatch centers operating independently in Broward County; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, Broward County created a regional communications system, fully funded by County revenues, utilizing an 800 MZ system, and offered all other agencies the opportunity to join the regional system at no charge; and

WHEREAS, some agencies joined the regional communications system and provided their radio frequencies to Broward County for use by the system, but numerous other agencies continued to operate their own dispatch systems; and

WHEREAS, following the September 11, 2011 terrorist attack, additional concerns were raised regarding interoperability of the various dispatch systems operating in Broward County; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the electorate of Broward County voted overwhelmingly to amend Section 5.03(a) of the Broward County Charter to provide for the establishment and County funding of a communications infrastructure for fire and emergency medical services, as follows:

The County Commission with cooperation from Municipalities shall establish a countywide communications infrastructure for fire and emergency medical services. The County shall provide funding for the communications infrastructure and all service providers will utilize the elements of the communications infrastructure. The communications infrastructure shall facilitate closest unit response for life-threatening emergencies and support for regional specialty teams;

WHEREAS, since 2002, through the leadership of the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, the County has implemented significant and meaningful advances toward interoperability, including the funding of the Regional Public Safety Communications Committee (RPSCC); and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the 2002 amendment to the County Charter, there continues to be 10 independent dispatch systems operating in Broward County; and

WHEREAS, since 2010, hundreds of hours have been dedicated to analyzing the feasibility of cooperative consolidation of the E-911 communications and dispatch system; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Broward League of Cities initiated a "Public Safety Answering Points Task Force," a multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary team of public safety professionals, staff, and elected officials; and

WHEREAS, on October 21, 2010, the Communications Technology Division of the Broward Sheriff's Office issued an extensive "Consolidation Feasibility Analysis," which highlighted that there were 10 different Public Safety Answering Points ("PSAPs") for the purposes of E-911 Communications and Dispatch, which provide differing levels of performance, costs per call, and equipment utilization; and

WHEREAS, the Consolidation Feasibility Analysis concluded that E-911 Dispatch operations for all Broward County Police, Fire, EMS and Sheriff agencies should be fully consolidated into three PSAPS, under a unified organizational structure, which would improve citizen/officer safety, eliminate call transfers that result in delayed response, result in significant cost savings, and promote efficient and cost effective migration to new technologies; and

WHEREAS, the Consolidation Feasibility Analysis study was presented in November 2010 to the Broward League of Cities, and as a result it was agreed that a taskforce should be formed to further consider implementation; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, the Public Safety Committee of the Broward League of Cities, the Fire Chief's Association of Broward County, the Broward County Chiefs of Police Association, the Fire-Rescue Services Council, the Broward County City Managers Association, and the Board of Directors of the Broward League of Cities all adopted and supported resolutions calling for an implementation process for cooperative consolidation of E-911 communications and dispatch; and

WHEREAS, on November 1, 2011, through the leadership of the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, and with the cooperation of the Broward League of Cities, the County Commission ratified the formation of the Broward County Consolidated Communications Committee; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2012, the Broward County Consolidated Communications Committee, co-chaired by a representative of the Board of the County Commissioners and Broward League of Cities, issued a Report and Recommendations for Cooperative Consolidation of E-911 Communications; and

WHEREAS, the Report and Recommendations of the Broward County Consolidated Communications Committee recommended the implementation of cooperative consolidation of E-911 communications and dispatch; and

WHEREAS, the Report and Recommendations of Broward County Consolidated Communications Committee provided that funding must be equitable, stable and predictable; funding must take into account that this is a regional function; and that any interlocal agreements should provide for equity of funding; and

WHEREAS, the Broward County Consolidated Communications Committee recommended three potential funding options, including a Municipal Services Taxing Unit Millage set by Broward County Commission and dedicated to communications only; a service agreement predicated upon usage, population, taxable value, or some combination of the three; or County funding through ad valorem taxes; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2012, the Broward County Commission adopted a resolution creating the Broward County Consolidated Communications Implementation Advisory Board (the "IBoard"), for the purpose of reviewing, considering and making recommendations to the Broward County Commission and municipalities relating to the creation, governance, funding, and operations of a regional and cooperative consolidated E-911 communications system, and to develop an interlocal agreement to be utilized by all participants in the regional and cooperative consolidated E-911 System; and

WHEREAS, the IBoard has held numerous meetings and it has become clear that the only feasible, truly stable and wholly equitable method of funding a consolidated communications and dispatch system is through County ad valorem taxes; and

WHEREAS, because of the consolidation of 911 communications is a critical public safety function, stability of funding is a crucial component of any regionalization plan; and

WHEREAS, uncertainties about the stream of funding would destabilize the system and jeopardize the safety of residents, officers, and fire-rescue personnel; and

WHEREAS, because the countywide communications system is a regional service, analogous to regional libraries and regional parks, Broward County should operate the system (or contract for its operations) and should fully fund the systems through County ad

valorem taxes; and

WHEREAS, municipalities that are operating their own communications and dispatch systems would have the option to opt-out of joining the countywide communications systems; and

WHEREAS, the County has made a significant and meaningful investment in communications infrastructure and staffing to the betterment of the communication systems in the County and to the benefit of all of the County's residents; and

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2012, the IBoard voted 16-2 (with only Broward County and Coral Springs dissenting), to support this resolution and the adoption of a plan for cooperative countywide consolidation of E-911 communications and dispatch, to be operated (or contracted for operation) by Broward County, and to be wholly funded through County ad valorem taxes; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds it to be in the best interest of the residents of the City, as well as all of Broward County, to support the adoption of a cooperative consolidation of E-911 communications and dispatch system fully funded through Broward County ad valorem taxes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. That the foregoing recitals contained in the preamble to this Resolution are incorporated by reference herein.

SECTION 2. That the City Commission supports the adoption of a cooperative consolidation of E-911 communications and dispatch.

SECTION 3. That the City Commission requests the assistance of the Broward County Board of Commissioners, and seeks the continued leadership of the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, to continue to fund regionalization of 911 and dispatch communications and to fully fund the consolidated communications plan by Broward County through County ad-valorem taxes.

SECTION 4. That the City Clerk is directed to distribute this Resolution to the Board of County Commissioners for Broward County, the Broward County League of Cities and each of the municipalities in Broward County.

SECTION 5. That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon final passage.

ADOPTED this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.

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Mayor  
JOHN P. "JACK" SEILER

ATTEST:

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City Clerk  
JONDA K. JOSEPH

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