



Date: September 11, 2014

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: W. Bowman Ferguson, Deputy City Manager

From: James Soukup, Emergency Communications Director

Subject: Durham City/County 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Inter-local Agreement

Executive Summary

This memorandum is to request that Council approve the 9-1-1 Inter-local Agreement between the City of Durham and the County of Durham that provides for the coordination of emergency dispatch operations and the efficient delivery of emergency services to the citizens of the City and County. This agreement imparts how emergency dispatch services will be administered, funded, and managed.

The most significant change from previous inter-local agreements is a newly formed Public Safety Operations Board, which will replace the current 9-1-1 Advisory Board. The new Board will result in a more detailed inclusion by the Durham City/County Public Safety Agencies.

Recommendation

To authorize the City Manager to execute the 9-1-1 Inter-local Agreement between the City of Durham and the County of Durham through June 30, 2017

Background

Durham County established a 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Department through joint efforts with the City of Durham effective on June 30, 1993. Both parties have established agreements since that time in order to share the cost of providing 9-1-1 services throughout Durham.

Issues and Analysis

This action is in accordance with both the City of Durham and Durham County Strategic Plans goal of a Safe and Secure Community, as this agreement is necessary for improving coordination with public safety and responding to emergencies. The new Public Safety Operations Board will have specific duties and responsibilities that the previous Inter-local Agreements did not contain.

Alternatives

The option of not entering into the agreement could result in the City paying more for current 9-1-1 services or requiring the County to establish a separate 9-1-1 center for County agencies funded entirely with County monies that would result in more transfers of 9-1-1 calls. This is not recommended.

Financial Impact

The Financial impact will continue to be apportioned as follows:

City Contribution = 79%
County Contribution = 21%

The apportionment ratio was agreed to following an analysis of funding by other similar counties and jurisdictions in North Carolina and adopted into the Inter-local agreement approved by City Council on March 7, 2005. The formula was determined by analyzing call volumes of the various public safety agencies served as well as personnel, building and equipment costs. This data served as the basis for negotiations between the City and County, which resulted in an agreement to split costs in this manner.

This Inter-local agreement maintains the provision that allows for the City Manager and the County Manager to meet each year to review the Apportionment Ratio and jointly recommend any modification that they find to be fair and equitable.

Attachments

- Durham City/County 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Inter-local Agreement