

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: January 23, 2024

To: Village President and Board of Trustees

Through: Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

From: Robert Grabowski, Fire Chief

Topic: E-COM-911 and SOUTHCAM-911 (Emergency Dispatching) Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement (ICA)

PURPOSE

E-COM (911 communications) is an intergovernmental agency that provides 911-emergency, and non-emergency police and fire dispatching services for nine communities (see chart below). SOUTHCAM (911 communications) provides the same services for four (4) communities. E-COM and SOUTHCAM are technically referred to as PSAPs or **Public Safety Answering Point**. Homewood, as a member community of E-COM, is working hand in hand with all of our neighboring E-COM and SOUTHCAM communities to establish a new consolidated (combined) fire and police dispatch center. As one of the many steps to complete this consolidation, the member communities of both Dispatch Center Boards are required to approve and sign an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement (ICA). The agreement states that the Village will cooperate to further the consolidation of the two 911 Emergency Telephone Systems for ECOM and SOUTHCAM into a **Joint Emergency Telephone System** that combines ECOM and SOUTHCAM. The agreement also permits the formation and operation of Joint **Emergency Telephone System Board** to oversee the implementation and operation the new (Enhanced) Joint Emergency Telephone System.

BACKGROUND

Since January 2023, the E-COM and SOUTHCAM Board of Directors have consistently met to discuss the outcomes of a recent 911 Dispatch Consolidation Study. Per the study, the consolidation of E-COM and SOUTHCAM has various operational advantages; in addition, the State of Illinois is actively encouraging consolidations of governmental services. On January 19, 2023, both Board of Directors (E-COM and SOUTHCAM) reached a mutual decision to make application for the (FY2024) 911 Systems Consolidation Grant Program introduced by the Illinois State Police Office of the Statewide 911 Administrator. This \$5M grant to consolidate the two agencies would provide the start-up funding required to initiate the merger of E-COM and SOUTHCAM dispatch agencies under one roof and one umbrella.

In July of 2023, \$2.9M was awarded to initiate the merger of E-COM and SOUTHCAM. Both E-COM and SOUTHCAM Board of Directors voted to move forward with consolidation efforts. On July 25, 2023 the Village Board unanimously approved a separate ICA to begin the consolidation process.

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For reference: ECOM and SOUTHCOR participating communities

E-COM Communities	Population*	SOUTHCOR Communities	Population*
Village of South Holland	21,465	Village of Park Forest	21,632
Village of Homewood	19,463	Village of Matteson	19,073
City of Country Club Hills	16,775	Village of Richton Park	12,775
Village of Hazel Crest	13,382	Village of Olympia Fields	4,718
Village of Riverdale	10,663		
Village of Flossmoor	9,704		
Village of Glenwood	8,662		
Village of Thornton	2,386		
Village of East Hazel Crest	1,297		
	103,797		58,198

PROCESS

Pursuant to the joint powers authorization of 50 ILCS 750/15.4, the Emergency Telephone System Act, and 5 ILCS 220/3, the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, the attached Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement (ICA) agrees to join together in a cooperative venture for the joint and mutual operation of an Enhanced 911 Emergency Telephone System, to be known as ECOM/SOUTHCOR Joint E-911 Emergency Telephone System consisting of all member municipalities that sign the ICA.

OUTCOME

Approval of this agreement will allow all of the communities to consolidate the two separate Joint Emergency Telephone Systems (JETS) into one system as part of the approval process from the State. The agreement also established a Joint Emergency Telephone System Board.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Funding Source:** N/A
- **Budgeted Amount:** N/A
- **Cost:** N/A

LEGAL REVIEW

Completed

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Authorize the Village President to enter into an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement (ICA) between the Village of Homewood and participating members of E-COM and SOUTHCOR to implement an Enhanced 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System to be known as the ECOM/SOUTHCOR Joint E-911 Emergency Telephone System.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement