

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: July 25, 2023

To: Village President and Board of Trustees

From: Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

Topic: E-COM and SouthCOM - Consolidation Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)

PURPOSE

As you may know, the E-COM 911 Dispatch Board of Directors have been exploring the option of consolidating the 911 dispatch operations of SouthCOM and E-COM. It has been determined that there are significant benefits to be realized, and effectively no drawbacks. Both 911 center boards have voted unanimously to move forward.

BACKGROUND

Homewood is a member of E-COM (emergency communication). E-COM is a nine (9) community, intergovernmental agency that provides 911-emergency, and non-emergency police and fire dispatching services for nine communities. E-COM is more commonly referred to as a PSAP or Public Safety Answering Point that serves a population of approximately 108,000 individuals within these nine communities. Since January 2023, the E-COM and SouthCOM Boards have consistently met to discuss the conceivable outcomes of a recent 911 Dispatch Consolidation Study. It appears the consolidation of E-COM and SouthCOM 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 SouthCOM) reached a mutual decision to make application for the (FY24) 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 SouthCOM dispatch agencies under one roof and one umbrella.

PROCESS

It is important to note that dispatching services to our community will not be negatively impacted through this consolidation; rather, enhanced. Among the benefits are economies of scale, as we will be distributing the ongoing operational costs among 13 municipalities, rather than the current nine E-COM communities. Technology changes are occurring at an increasingly rapid pace, and consolidation makes it possible for participating communities to offer their residents and businesses the best technology available. The State of Illinois has been pressing for further consolidations, and this move puts us ahead of future mandates. Securing

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grant funds along the way is much more likely if we are a larger consolidated center, which is expected to save our municipality a lot of money in the long run.

In addition, to facilitate this consolidation, the state is making special consolidation grants available. E-Com and SouthCOM applied for one of these grants, and earlier this month the collaborative received an official award notification of \$2.9M. This is only a portion of the amount we estimate will be required to complete the consolidation. E-COM and SouthCOM plan to seek additional state and federal grants as well. These efforts, along with both call centers' (E-COM and SouthCOM) capital funds, will make consolidation possible without requiring any additional funds from any of the participating communities.

There are lots of details that need to be worked out as we move forward, but we are confident they are all quite manageable. Both agencies have done this work before, moving from single agencies to a combined center, and we are fortunate to have several managers and chiefs who were a part of those consolidation processes - either 18 years ago, or more recently when communities joined E-COM. All employees of both 911 centers will be needed at the new consolidated center. No layoffs or downsizing are contemplated.

For reference: The participating communities are listed below.

E-COM Communities	Population*	SouthCOM 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

New Proposed Facility

E-COM has outgrown its current facility and established a subcommittee to evaluate a number of sites to host a new E-COM facility. The subcommittee also included space for SouthCOM as part of the pending consolidation. The E-COM *new facility subcommittee* narrowed the evaluation down to a site in each of the communities of Hazel Crest, Homewood, and South Holland. Homewood proposed the 1221 175th Street Building as a possible site. The Homewood site was determined to be too large and expansive for the new consolidated facility. With the pending consolidation now being discussed jointly with both E-COM and SouthCOM board of directors, another new facility committee may be established to evaluate

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sites in one of the SouthCOM communities. The Village of Matteson, during a recent combined meeting, expressed their desire to “host” the new consolidated facility.

OUTCOME

To facilitate the consolidation, the State of Illinois requires that each of the 13 municipalities adopt the enclosed IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement), which states that each municipality is assenting to moving the consolidation forward.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- **Funding Source:** N/A
- **Budgeted Amount:** \$0
- **Cost:** \$0

LEGAL REVIEW

Completed

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Pass a resolution authorizing the Village President to enter into an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement to merge the E-COM and SouthCOM public safety joint emergency telephone systems.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Agreement