



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6353  
October 3, 2023  
Consent Agenda**

**AGENDA BILL INFORMATION**

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6353: Termination of the Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency Interlocal Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Authorize the City Manager to take the necessary actions to (1) terminate the Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency (EPSCA) Interlocal Agreement; (2) dissolve EPSCA; and (3) effectuate the termination and dissolution in best interest of the City.	

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	Police
<b>STAFF:</b>	Ed Holmes – Chief of Police Jeff Magnan – Police Commander
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	n/a
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. Interlocal Agreement with Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	n/a

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ n/a
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$ n/a
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ n/a

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this agenda bill is to authorize the City Manager to terminate the Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency (EPSCA) upon its dissolution scheduled for 2024.

- In 1992, Mercer Island was one of several Eastside cities that became principals in an ILA designed to create an 800 MHz regional Public Safety radio network known as the Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency.
- EPSCA was formed to maximize the availability and effectiveness of radio communications, allowing for greater interoperability between agencies.
- Following its formation, several additional agencies joined EPSCA as subscriber agencies and the original ILA was updated in 2021.

- In 2023, the member cities moved operations of the EPSCA radio network to the newly formed Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network (PSERN).
- Now that all radio operations have moved to PSERN, the EPSCA radio network is no longer needed, and the associated ILA must be terminated.
- This termination process includes decommissioning equipment, terminating existing contracts, and the liquidation of all assets and each principal agency will receive a portion of the liquidated assets based on the radio use charges each agency has paid.

## **BACKGROUND**

EPSCA was originally formed in 1992 by an interlocal agreement (ILA) among the principal cities of Bellevue, Kirkland, Mercer Island and Redmond. Issaquah joined a year later followed by several other agencies who became subscriber agencies. Under the ILA, EPSCA owns, operates, and maintains the infrastructure necessary to connect local 911 operations to the regional 800 MHz emergency radio network.

Since 1992, the Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency (EPSCA) has provided emergency radio network and systems management to its member agencies. All of Mercer Island's police and fire dispatching and radio communications have been transmitted via the radio network and systems owned and managed by EPSCA.

In 2023, the member cities moved operations of their 800 MHz emergency radio network to the newly formed Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network (PSERN). The EPSCA radio system is no longer in use, so the ILA must be terminated.

## **ISSUE/DISCUSSION**

Since all radio operations have been moved from the EPSCA system to the new PSERN system, the EPSCA principal agencies are in the process of terminating operations per Section 20 - Termination of Agreement; Dissolution of Agency of the current ILA (see Exhibit 1). It states that upon the vote of 80% of the principal agencies, the agreement will be terminated, and business will be complete at least one (1) year from the date of the vote to terminate.

As a principal agency, the City Council must authorize the City Manager to terminate the ILA to dissolve EPSCA. Terminating the ILA involves a process that includes decommissioning towers and equipment, terminating existing maintenance and leasing contracts, and the liquidation of all assets. While the value of the remaining assets is not known at this time, any surplus funds from asset sales will be apportioned to the principal agencies.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Authorize the City Manager to take the necessary actions to (1) terminate the Eastside Public Safety Communications Agency (EPSCA) Interlocal Agreement; (2) dissolve EPSCA; and (3) effectuate the termination and dissolution in best interest of the City.