

TO: Member Communities of E-COM and SouthCom

FROM: Attorney John H. Kelly

SUBJECT: Intergovernmental Agreement creating the Southland Public Safety Communications Dispatch System

DATE: September 22, 2025

As part of the process of consolidating the E-COM and SouthCom dispatch systems, an intergovernmental agreement was entered into by the E-COM and SouthCom communities which created a Joint Emergency Telephone System Board (JETSBS). The Emergency Telephone System Act, 50 ILCS 750/1 *et seq.* empowers the JETSBS to operate a 9-1-1 system. However, the Emergency Telephone System Act contains no authority for a JETSBS to own real property. Because a crucial part of the consolidation of the E-COM and SouthCom dispatch centers is locating the consolidated dispatch center in one building, it is necessary for the dispatch system to own the building and the property it sits on.

In order to accomplish this, it is necessary to create an additional unit of intergovernmental cooperation that has the authority to own the building and the property. The Southland Public Safety Communications Dispatch System is that entity. The attached intergovernmental agreement establishes the Southland Public Safety Communications System, defines its purpose, and provides for the powers necessary to operate the dispatch system and, importantly, own the new dispatch center.

The intergovernmental agreement references the adoption of bylaws for the dispatch system. It is anticipated that those bylaws will be very similar to the ones adopted for the JETSBS. It is crucial that your governing body authorize the adoption of this intergovernmental agreement as soon as possible and authorize signing of the signature page. There is a separate signature page for each municipality.

Should you have any questions about the document or the process, please do not hesitate to contact E-COM Chair Wynsma, SouthCom Chair Burton, Director Kowalski, or myself.