

**Council Meeting: January 25, 2011**

SUBJECT: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Sunnyvale Regarding the Exploration of Consolidated and/or Shared Services and Assets Between the Cities of Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Mountain View, and Los Altos

BACKGROUND

Although the City has long recognized the benefits and efficiencies that can be gained by sharing resources and services between municipalities. Sunnyvale, like other Cities, has typically limited that sharing to emergency response and has rarely looked beyond events to increase the sharing of resources. Cities in Santa Clara County have maintained their desire for local control, resulting in duplication of services, resources, and assets, without recognizing that efficiencies can be gained through a shared services model.

EXISTING POLICY

Goal 7.3F continually strive to enhance the quality, cost, and customer satisfaction of service delivery.

DISCUSSION

During the last few years, Cities across the nation have recognized the need to better manage limited financial resources because of the downturn in the economy. Locally, several reports have pointed to the need to gain efficiencies through sharing of resources and consolidation of services, including the September 2010 Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County (LAFCO) and the August 2010 Santa Clara County Grand Jury Report, “Cities Must Rein in Unsustainable Employee Costs.”

The City Managers in Santa Clara County began discussions more than one year ago about consolidation initiatives. As a result of these discussions, City Managers in Los Altos, Mountain View, Palo Alto, and Sunnyvale began meeting regularly to ensure that these four contiguous “North County Cities” take the lead in an effort to regionalize services and gain efficiencies through the sharing of resources. These discussions have resulted in the Cities of Mountain View, Los Altos, and Palo Alto attempting to “virtually consolidate” their dispatcher centers by linking their Communication Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems together; and the cities of Sunnyvale, Los Gatos, Gilroy, and Milpitas have begun discussions to eliminate redundant CAD systems by having

Sunnyvale host CAD services and Record Management Systems for all the cities. If successful, this consolidation could save as much as four million dollars in replacement costs between those cities.

Additionally, North County Cities City Managers are leading these efforts countywide to explore the potential of either virtually consolidating dispatch services across the county through the linking of CAD and radio systems, or planning for brick and mortar consolidation in the future. These are but a few real examples of consolidated service efforts underway. The North County Cities are currently in discussions to explore the formalization of agreements between the cities to share other services including centralized records management, property and evidence facilities, field equipment, emergency planning, arson investigation and fire prevention services. Staff is being careful not to limit concern only to these services, but to recognize this particular moment in time as an opportunity to change the localized municipal service delivery culture by combining services to improve efficiency at a reduced cost.

FISCAL IMPACT

The financial savings will depend on the resources shared and services consolidated.

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall, at the Sunnyvale Senior Center, Community Center and Department of Public Safety; and by making the agenda and report available at the Sunnyvale Public Library, the Office of the City Clerk and on the City's Web site.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Adopt a Resolution endorsing the exploration of further cooperative opportunities between the four cities including but not limited to a joint communications center, centralized records management, a centralized evidence facility, shared equipment, emergency planning, arson investigation and fire prevention; and instructing the City Manager to engage in said exploration and to report back periodically to the Council on the status of these efforts (attachment A).
2. Other action as directed by Council

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends alternative # 1: Adopt a Resolution endorsing the exploration of further cooperative opportunities between the four cities including but not limited to a joint communications center, centralized records management, a centralized evidence facility, shared equipment, emergency planning, arson investigation and fire prevention; and instructing the City Manager to engage in said exploration and to report back periodically to the Council on the status of these efforts (attachment A).

Reviewed by:

Don Johnson, Director, Public Safety
Prepared by: Carl Rushmeyer, Captain

Approved by:

Gary M. Luebbbers
City Manager

Attachments

A. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Sunnyvale Regarding the Exploration of Consolidated and/or Shared Services and Assets Between the Cities of Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Mountain View and Los Altos

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNNYVALE REGARDING THE EXPLORATION OF CONSOLIDATED AND/OR SHARED SERVICES AND ASSETS BETWEEN THE CITIES OF PALO ALTO, SUNNYVALE, MOUNTAIN VIEW AND LOS ALTOS

WHEREAS, the Cities of Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Mountain View and Los Altos have engaged, either collectively or in smaller coalitions, over the decades in shared municipal activities such as animal services, solid waste facilities, SWAT teams and mutual aid agreements; and

WHEREAS, Palo Alto, Mountain View and Los Altos are currently in the final effort to bring “on-line” a “virtual” public safety communications cooperative program; and

WHEREAS, the four cities continue their efforts to find mutually compatible areas where cooperation can result in efficiencies and economies, cost savings for taxpayers and increased services at less cost; and

WHEREAS, the city managers of the four cities have been meeting for the purpose of finding additional areas of cooperation and monetary savings; and

WHEREAS, each of the four cities currently operates its own public safety communications center; and

WHEREAS, the four cities wish to further explore the possibility and feasibility of the consolidation of the four public safety communications centers; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the exploration of a joint public safety communications center, the managers have discussed the possible consolidation and/or sharing of such services or assets as centralized records management, evidence facilities, office or field equipment, emergency planning, arson investigation and fire prevention.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUNNYVALE DOES HEREBY:

- 1) endorse the exploration of further cooperative opportunities between the four cities including but not limited to a joint communications center, centralized records management, a centralized evidence facility, shared equipment, emergency planning, arson investigation and fire prevention;
- 2) instruct its City Manager to engage in said exploration and to report back periodically to the Council on the status of these efforts; and

- 3) direct its City Manager to include, dependant upon timing and the cost estimate, monies in the budget for FY 2011-12 for an independent study for a joint public safety communications center.

Adopted by the City Council at a regular meeting held on January _____, 2011, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

City Clerk
(SEAL)

Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

David E. Kahn, City Attorney