



TO: Santa Barbara County General Services Department
Attn: Janette Pell, Director

FROM: Probation Department and Sheriff's Office

SUBJECT: Clarification of Portable Radio Selection

DATE: May 13, 2018

After considerable field testing of four different modern portable radio systems, the Sheriff's Office identified two modern portable radios, manufactured by Harris Communications and Motorola, as meeting the immediate needs of the Sheriff's Office in replacing the outdated, end-of-life portable radios that are currently used by both of our agencies. Subsequent to the initial field testing process, the Probation Department and the Sheriff's Office teamed up with General Services to identify which of the two portable radio manufacturers would best meet the current and future communications needs of both agencies.

One of the key considerations in evaluating the two portable radio platforms was their capability of integrating with the City of Santa Maria's modern public safety communications backbone, known as the Central Regional Interoperable Communications System (Central RICS). Both of the applicable Harris and Motorola portable radio products are compliant with and utilize the P25 Standard to enhance interoperability with other modern public safety radios and radio systems. However, there are a number of highly desirable safety and security capabilities that are, or will be available through the Central RICS, and are only available when operating Motorola portable radios on the system. A few of the most notable Central RICS safety and security functions and capabilities that will potentially be gained by purchasing Motorola portable radios are:

- GPS Integration with Dispatch: Ability of SMPD's Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system to track the location of portable radios. This is a critical officer safety improvement, allowing both dispatch and other SMPD field units to see where the radio user is located in real time.
- Mission Critical Geofencing: Ability of the Central RICS and the portable radios to work together and automatically perform functions based upon the portable radio's location,

including ensuring that a portable radio is receiving and broadcasting on the appropriate talk-group or notifying the user of things safety concerns such as entry into a known area of poor radio coverage.

- Group Services - Enhanced data sharing: Ability of SMPD's CAD system to send officer safety and other types of real-time information via a text-based messages directly to portable radios.
- Radio Trace - Enhanced security controls: The Central RICS system will have the ability to simultaneously determine the physical location of missing or stolen portable radios and ensure the radios are not able to hear or transmit on public safety talk-groups. Law enforcement can be sent to the location to pick up the radio or SMPD Dispatch can communicate with the radio to inform the person possessing the radio that it should be turned in.

Once Motorola adjusted their pricing to approximately \$1000 more per radio when compared with a similarly equipped Harris unit (at the time of the decision), the Probation Department and Sheriff's Office agreed that purchasing Motorola portable radios was the best decision, insofar as meeting our organizations' immediate and future communications needs within the FY 17/18 and FY 18/19 portable radio replacement project led by SBC General Services.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Bonner".

Craig Bonner, Sheriff's Commander
Sheriff's Office

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Damon Fletcher".

Damon Fletcher, Administrative Deputy Director
Probation Department