



City Council Report

Date: July 11, 2016
To: City Council
Through: Alex Deshuk, Chief Innovation Officer
From: Randy Thompson, Communications Administrator
Subject: Request to Enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for Radio Communications Site Sharing – Citywide

Strategic Initiatives



Purpose and Recommendation

The Council is requested to authorize the City Manager to execute an IGA that allows the City of Mesa and the DEA Phoenix Field Division to share radio communications sites.

Background

The City of Mesa and the DEA have individually constructed and/or license communications sites that house radio systems that support their respective radio users. Each agency owns or licenses sites that could potentially benefit the other agency in terms of improved radio coverage, particularly for Public Safety. To take advantage of these benefits, an IGA that authorizes site sharing when technically feasible is required.

Discussion

Mesa owns or licenses and maintains radios sites throughout Mesa and on two nearby mountaintops. A site sharing agreement would allow the DEA Phoenix Field Division to install infrastructure at one or more of Mesa's sites to improve the coverage of their radio systems when technically feasible and mutually beneficial.

In similar manner, this IGA would enable Mesa to install infrastructure at one or more of the DEA's sites to improve the coverage of Mesa's radio systems when technically feasible and mutually beneficial.

Once this IGA is executed, the DEA will utilize space in the radio site the City of Mesa licenses from Arizona Public Service (APS) on Shaw Butte in Phoenix for the TOPAZ radio network. The DEA will share the site license fee paid to APS for the Shaw Butte site, and Mesa will provide the DEA with air conditioned space and

electrical connections in the radio equipment shelter and space on the radio tower.

Alternatives

1. Enter into the IGA and allow the City of Mesa and the DEA to share radio communications sites where it is technically feasible and mutually beneficial to do so. This could potentially benefit each respective agency in terms of improved radio coverage, particularly for Public Safety.
2. Take no action. If this agreement is not approved, it will prevent the City of Mesa and the DEA from taking advantage of sharing pre-existing communications sites when technically feasible and mutually beneficial. The City of Mesa and the DEA may incur additional expense if communications sites need to be developed and constructed to support City of Mesa and DEA communications needs.

Fiscal Impact

The DEA will pay the City of Mesa one-half the cost of the APS license fee for the Shaw Butte radio site. The Shaw Butte radio site license fee is currently \$14,400 per year, so the DEA will pay Mesa \$7,200 per year; this will include the cost of electrical power consumed by the DEA's equipment, which is negligible compared to the TOPAZ radio network equipment power consumption. This will save the City of Mesa and members of the TOPAZ Regional Wireless Cooperative (TRWC) \$7,200 per year in site license cost.