

May 21, 2019

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Chair
Spokane Valley Fire
Department

BRIAN ASMUS
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THERESA SANDERS
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BRIAN SCHAEFFER
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STEVE REINKE
Executive Director

Mayor David Condon
Spokane City Council
City of Spokane
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
Spokane, WA 99201

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

This letter is in response to Council President Ben Stuckart's May 17, 2019 letter requesting an extension of the Board's May 21, 2019 deadline for Council to take action to become part of the SREC regional partnership, and confirmation of several other items.

The SREC Board desires the City of Spokane continue their membership as an partner agency within the PDA, *provided* Council acts to rescind Ordinance C35693 no later than Thursday, May 23, 2019. The SREC Board requests a brief letter of intent indicating the City's desire to join the partnership no later than close of business on Tuesday, May 21, 2019.

Regardless whether the Council rescinds the ordinance or not, SREC will begin operations on July 1, 2019 as previously noted in the May 6th correspondence.

It is my understanding the City's legal counsel has provided Council with an opinion with regard to acceptable uses of the 1/10 of 1% emergency communications sales tax. With regard to the other items:

Item 1: All dispatchers presently employed by the City of Spokane Police and Fire departments will be offered positions with comparable training, expertise and discipline and at salaries, wage tables and benefit value as good or better as currently received with no additional expense to the City, including SREC willingness to let them continue to participate in City of Spokane's retirement system if its governing body consents.

City of Spokane dispatchers who accept employment with SREC will receive compensation and benefits either as established by the Board, or as bargained by an employee selected labor organization. If eligible, City of Spokane dispatchers may remain in City's retirement system.

The forecast for SREC user fees for the City are lower than the amount currently budgeted for dispatch services. The City may choose to use the balance of budgeted funds for mitigation efforts related to compensation.

Item 2: 2019 deployment of a 'North Service Channel' comprised of a minimum of 6 employees for Spokane Police Dispatch.

SREC is committed to establishing an additional Spokane Police dispatch console. Placing the console in service will require a deployment period of at least 18 months to re-configure the radio system, revise operational procedures and to hire and train the necessary staff.

Item 3: SREC Board and SFD and SPD approval of the Spokane Police Department and Fire and EMS Service Level Agreements and MOU agreement that puts authority for changes with the operations groups.

The Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the fire service has been adopted, and the SLA for the Spokane Police Department has been completed and is being reviewed by its legal counsel. Operations group involvement and recommendations are required for changes, but the SREC Governing Board is the ultimate authority for all agreements.

Item 4: Lease agreement between the City of Spokane to SREC of city facilities, including administration, maintenance and future improvements.

The County is expected to delegate its authority for relevant leases to SREC, which will make SREC a party to the existing 2004 interlocal agreement governing how the Combined Communications Building (CCB) is operated and maintained.

Items 5 and 6: A commitment to develop a plan before year-end 2019 for reduction of city of Spokane and partner/customer costs for participation in SREC at the earliest dates possible and subject to the constraints of available financial resources and prioritization of the capital needs of the system. A commitment to develop and approve an updated capital plan by calendar yearend through 2027.

SREC has worked to compile the applicable elements for a comprehensive capital needs plan as part of its initial budget and has plan to formalize a long term forecast including capital plan for its customer agencies as part of the 2020 budget process.

Item 7: A commitment to a date certain to publish a specific plan for police and fire to implement new practices/procedures/technological updates that will reduce response times for city users and improve level of service.

With heavy involvement by fire dispatchers and the fire & EMS operations group with regard to policies, procedures and training, 911 call takers will receive and input fire and EMS calls directly into the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system no later than the second quarter of 2020. The technology is currently in place to accomplish the above work processes using the two current CAD platforms.

Item 8: A willingness to let allow the Spokane City Council to designate at least one SREC governing board member either as an additional member to create a more optimum odd-number of members.

The decision to change the board composition is held with the Spokane County Commissioners.

Upon creation, the SREC Board was authorized by statute to act on behalf of the Commissioners for the PDA with the understanding that Board membership would hold operational expertise for field of emergency communications dispatch services. The only elected official on the Board is the Sheriff, who is also an operational subject matter expert.

Item 9: A commitment by SREC not to oppose efforts by employees to organize themselves and seek collective bargaining including a commitment by SREC not to oppose fire dispatchers seeking representation as fire dispatchers.

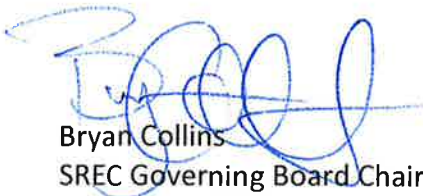
SREC will abide by all labor laws.

Item 10: A date certain review period in which all members may analyze the promised levels of service and cost savings and if concerns aren't addressed, exit the system.

SREC's service level performance will be under constant review by its operations groups and the Board. All SLAs have a 6 month termination clause.

As noted before, SREC welcomes the City's participation in SREC, and looks forward to notification of definitive action by Council by May 21st to continue the discussion.

Sincerely,



Bryan Collins
SREC Governing Board Chair