



JIM ERICKSON
City Manager

July 29, 2008

Ramona Garrett
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Solano Superior Court
600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, CA 94533

Honorable Judge Ramona Garrett:

I have reviewed the Solano County Grand Jury's report issued June 12, 2008 entitled "Solano County Fire Protection Districts." I am responding pursuant to, and in the manner described in, California Penal Code Section 933.05.

Finding 2: Communication is often difficult because equipment and frequencies used by different fire fighting agencies are not compatible.

Recommendation 2: Fire Protection Districts, Cities, and the County should standardize and consolidate communications as soon as possible.

The City of Benicia concurs with the finding and recommendation of the Grand Jury. Care must be taken so that the most suitable equipment and frequencies are selected as the "standard."

Finding 3: Dispatching is challenging because dispatchers also serve law enforcement agencies.

Recommendation 3: The Fire Districts, Cities and the County should explore options to develop a centralized Fire Dispatch.

The City of Benicia concurs that the issue should be further explored with a goal of providing the best service possible to the users. Many agencies have combined fire and law enforcement dispatch. Familiarity with the locale is important for efficient dispatching.

ELIZABETH PATTERSON, Mayor
Members of the City Council

TOM CAMPBELL, Vice Mayor • NIKI IOAKIMIDES • MARK C. HUGHES • ALAN M. SCHWARTZMAN

JIM ERICKSON, City Manager
LEDDIE BIDOL, City Treasurer
LISA WOLFE, City Clerk

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The City of Benicia provides its own fire protection services so Finding 1 and Recommendation 1a and 1b are not addressed here.

If there are any further questions regarding this issue, please have your staff contact Fire Chief Gene Gantt at (707) 746-4275 or via e-mail at ggantt@ci.benicia.ca.us.

Sincerely,



Jim Erickson
City Manager

cc: City Attorney
Fire Chief
Police Chief