

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2007

An adjourned meeting of the Council of the City of Burbank was held in the Community Room at the Buena Vista Library, 300 North Buena Vista Street, on the above date. The meeting was called to order at 8:13 a.m. by Mr. Campbell, Mayor.

ROLL CALL

Present- - - - Council Members Campbell, Gordon and Ramos.
Absent - - - - Council Members Golonski and Vander Borcht.
Also Present - Ms. Alvord, City Manager; Mr. Barlow, City Attorney; and, Mrs. Campos, City Clerk. Supervisor Antonovich, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, was also present.

Oral Communications Mayor Ramos called for speakers for oral communications.

Citizen Comment Appearing to comment was LaVerne Thomas, on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Tri-City Line and Draft Arterial Master Plan. She also expressed concerns with through-traffic in the area.

Interagency Communications Interoperability System (ICIS) Cooperation Ms. Alvord, City Manager, stated that this item was placed on the agenda to seek the assistance of Supervisor Antonovich, noting the Supervisor had also received a copy of a letter addressed to Mr. Frederick Latham, City Manager, City of Santa Fe Springs, member of the Regional Interoperability Steering Committee (RISC) representing the Independent Cities Association. She noted that Burbank was among the six cities which have been working on the Interagency Communications Interoperability System (ICIS) Joint Powers Agreement for the past four years. She stated that Burbank took the lead along with the City of Glendale with the idea that law enforcement and other agencies would be able to communicate with one another, citing the success of the Fire Department which works with other departments through the effective Verdugo System. She advised that Vice Mayor Ramos, who has served as the lead in the City's approach to Federal legislators to seek funding for ICIS out of homeland security funding and other sources, has been working proactively.

Ms. Alvord stated that a lot of headway has been made with the ICIS cities, but acknowledged that the system has to be Countywide. She noted that Burbank does not want to lose any of the groundwork already laid and desires fair representation due to the anticipated large amounts of funding at stake. She noted similar concerns by City of Glendale City Manager Jim Starbird and Police Chief Randy Adams. She highlighted the fact that the Federal government has made it clear that only one major system will be funded and as such, it was imperative that the parties be

represented by one voice. She emphasized Burbank's position that the funding should be dispersed to the ICIS structure, not individual agencies. She noted that the initial focus will be on safety services for first responders, but ultimately the system must trickle down to public works and utilities, which are also vital and just as critical in emergency or disaster situations.

Captain Richard Adams, representing the Los Angeles County (County) Sheriff's Department, briefly outlined the history of the Sheriff Department's work on a seamless system with a uniform Ultra High Frequency voice platform with no patching. He advised that a Request For Proposals (RFP) on this project will be completed in June 2007, which will encompass the requirements for every agency in the County, including the 88 municipalities, to serve the 10 million County residents. He elaborated on the timeline for the RFP upon receipt of the \$2 million Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funding. He added that the Sheriff's and Fire Department's system is fragile, and cannot wait long-term; however, at this point, their RFP will be held so that the system can be built from the ground up, and the funding would come through the RISC structure.

Mr. Davis, General Manager, Burbank Water and Power, stated that ICIS could be expanded Countywide, as it was designed for that, and that the County can take ICIS over when it is expanded. He added that the ICIS structure was designed better than RISC because it included public works and is relatively inexpensive. He expressed concern over waste and turning over Burbank's frequencies because they support safety services. Captain Adams expressed concerns with the potential of sole-sourcing to Motorola, and noted that the RFP could reveal that the ICIS system has a sustainable backbone to be expanded upon, thereby addressing Mr. Davis' concerns.

Fire Chief Pansini stated that in the meantime, there is funding competition and inquired as to whether RISC can take over the ICIS portion and continue to maintain its momentum. Captain Adams agreed, and added that there must be one voice.

Ms. McGinley, Legislative Analyst, Burbank Water and Power, stated that at the time when ICIS was formed, there was no Countywide solution. She added that Burbank chose not to wait any longer because waiting would jeopardize life and property. She explained that ICIS provided a means to address the needs economically, and since the City needed to replace its communication systems, an agreement was made to meet that need. She noted that the technical issues are not insurmountable,

but rather, the issues are governance and how cities can cooperatively work together. She expressed Burbank's concern over the \$60 million investment. Captain Adams addressed the governance issue, stating that he was in attendance at the RISC meeting when this issue was discussed, and that Mr. Latham requested that the City of Long Beach and ICIS-member cities be represented on the commission of 13 governance members.

Mr. Davis addressed the issue of frequencies, stating that notwithstanding the funding issues, the City would have to keep its frequencies until the coverage issues are solved, as surrendering the frequencies places the City's safety services in jeopardy in case RISC fails.

Police Chief Hoefel expressed concern about the funding issue, and noted that if RISC is still a concept today, it will be years if it ever becomes reality. He commended Glendale Police Chief Adams' participation at RISC, but noted that the UASI funding went entirely to the County. Ms. Pembedjian, Supervisor Antonovich's Office, stated that the \$2.5 million in UASI funding was for the Countywide interoperability study, and stated that all vital departments such as public works, utilities and the health department will be a part of the study. Chief Hoefel emphasized that ICIS got none of the UASI funding and is expanding daily while the RISC system comes together. He noted the Sheriff's request that ICIS stop requesting funding but stated that ICIS will cease funding requests once guaranteed funding out of UASI grants. Captain Adams stated that for the next UASI grant period, the County would be seeking the entire \$15 million to start building up the RISC infrastructure. He further clarified that the Sheriff's request was not that ICIS refrain from seeking funding, rather that ICIS should not be represented as a Countywide system.

Mrs. Ramos stated that from her perspective she was most interested in the efficiency and effectiveness of taxpayers' dollars being spent. She stated ICIS provided a means to replace communication systems and establish an interoperable network through the region and was an efficient use of money. She noted that ICIS is functioning Countywide, and that until progress is made on the RISC system, the region needs an operational system otherwise millions would be at stake in the event of a disaster. She concluded that this is the most effective use and sought the County's cooperation.

Ms. McGinley stated that ICIS has been supportive of a regional system and clarified the misunderstanding about the City representation of ICIS as a Countywide solution. Captain Adams

added that the perception of competition of funds came about as a result of a statement from Senator Feinstein who stated she was familiar with ICIS and thought that it was the Countywide solution.

Supervisor Antonovich inquired why the County was starting from scratch if there was a system in place which already encompassed 80 percent of the County. Captain Adams responded that a report from the original study concluded that in order to achieve a seamless communication, a single-platform system had to be developed and that ICIS should refrain from expansion and become a part of the system. Ms. McGinley stated that ICIS is a single- platform seamless system which is fully integrated and operates within 80 percent of the County. She added that although ICIS is not Project 25 compliant, she would like to see the network become Project 25 compliant, noting the associated cost of \$18 million, most of which could be covered by the \$15 million the County anticipates receiving. Mr. Davis inquired why the County would not simply take over ICIS and have interoperability today, and then all the agencies could purchase Project 25-compliant radios thereby saving significant funds. He stated that Countywide interoperability could be achieved in 12 months. Captain Adams reiterated the results of the study by two nationwide consultants, RCC Consultants Inc. and Thayer Consultants.

Chief Hoefel emphasized that currently, ICIS covers 80 percent of the County and any agency could join with minimal funding required. Supervisor Antonovich restated the City's position that the County should allocate the resources to achieve the other 20 percent and in the meantime proceed with the upgrade, which could take seven to 10 years to develop. Chief Hoefel noted that in the interim, the region could have five years of Countywide coverage for a relatively-small cost. Supervisor Antonovich inquired whether funding was keeping ICIS from doing this and Chief Hoefel responded that the cities have so far invested \$59 million of local funds. Ms. McGinley added that ICIS has received a total of \$500,000 in Federal funds, and that the money was not spent on studies. Supervisor Antonovich inquired as to the price for the other 20 percent component and Mr. Davis responded it was approximately \$2 million. Supervisor Antonovich inquired as to why the County would not be willing to contribute the \$2 million, and Captain Adams responded that there would be significant debate that there is currently 80 percent seamless coverage and on the validity that \$2 million would be necessary to bridge the gap of the outstanding 20 percent. Supervisor Antonovich stated that ICIS is an interesting concept and that communication is vital to ensuring public safety during a crisis. He recognized that RISC is a work in progress but that the concerns raised warrant careful review, and

that the Sheriff needs to consider them.

Mayor Campbell noted respect for both sides of the issue, and stated that Mr. Davis and Chiefs Hoefel and Pansini are not just concerned with costs, but with the potential of jeopardizing lives. He stated that both sides have expressed a desire to work together to achieve the common goal and thanked everyone for participating.

9:19 A.M.

Mayor Campbell left the meeting at this time.

Metropolitan
Transportation
Authority Tri-City
Line

Vice Mayor Ramos stated that she sits on the San Fernando Valley Governance Council of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and commented on the input received prior to studying the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Tri-City Line. She added that the MTA had been given approval for this line, which is proposed for June or July 2007, and inquired as to its implemented schedule.

Mr. Cano, Transportation Deputy, County of Los Angeles, stated that the goal of the proposed express service is to link three major rapid transit systems (the Gold, Red and Orange Lines) which meet in North Hollywood, thereby creating a point-to-point high speed commuter service which is not currently available. He added that Supervisor Antonovich and City of Glendale Mayor Najarian, who is also an MTA Board of Directors member, proposed the concept and requested staff to look into its implementation. He noted a discussion with regard to duplication of service with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) line but clarified that they are two completely different concepts with regard to ridership. He concluded that the express line will go forward as a pilot project so that this corridor has a visible tangible link to the current MTA system and will provide great congestion relief in through-corridors for those communities from valley to valley.

Mrs. Ramos stated Line 549 now connects to the Red Line, and that she assumed one of the problems, besides marketability, was the number of stops being made in Pasadena, the odd stop in Glendale and in the Media District in Burbank. She inquired as to whether there was any plan for a stop in a location next to the Bob Hope Airport, where major employers reside. Mr. Cano responded this is precisely why it was imperative that City staff meet with Mr. Richard Hunt, MTA General Manager, to develop the route, noting the possibility of exploring a reverse shuttle between the Airport and the Red and Orange Lines which stop in North Hollywood. He stated that the express service currently available is a State Route 134 connection from Pasadena to Burbank, to help generate ridership.

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Mrs. Ramos inquired as to whether there is a substantial time difference in comparison to the LADOT line. Mr. Cano responded that the express line will take 34 minutes compared to the LADOT time of approximately 36 minutes, adding that the MTA line would eliminate the variables involved with traffic as well, and noted that the biggest issue is marketing.

Mrs. Ramos expressed frustration with public funds being spent on two systems, but noted the MTA's hope that their line will be more efficient. Mr. Cano stated that there are funds available for this demonstration project, which are not eligible for main line operations. Mrs. Ramos offered assistance in marketing both lines, noting the City is committed to increasing public transportation to reduce vehicle traffic.

Dr. Gordon inquired as to how the MTA assesses impacts to local communities in terms of the added traffic. Mr. Cano responded that the MTA utilizes a model of anticipated traffic impacts based on data sources. Dr. Gordon inquired as to whether input will be solicited from community residents and Mr. Cano replied in the affirmative.

Supervisor Antonovich commented on the progress of working with the MTA to reinstate the Interstate 5 Freeway funding and was hopeful the situation would be rectified.

Adjournment There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Margarita Campos,
City Clerk

APPROVED OCTOBER 9, 2007

Mayor of the Council
of the City of Burbank