

REPORT

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council
From the City Manager

April 23, 2007

SUBJECT

Frequency Reconfiguration Agreement between the City of Redwood City and Nextel of California

RECOMMENDATION

Approve by motion, the Police Chief's recommendation to enter into the Frequency Reconfiguration Agreement with Nextel of California, Inc.

BACKGROUND

The police department is currently licensed by the Federal Communications Commission to operate two radio channels in the 800 MHz bandwidth. This bandwidth was commonly used by public safety agencies for their radio communications needs. Cellular phone companies such as Nextel also use this bandwidth to handle calls on their networks. With the growth of cellular phone sites and spectrum use in the 800 MHz band, public safety agencies began experiencing "holes" or "dead spots" in their coverage area. This was a result of commercial wireless signals overwhelming public safety portable or vehicular radio receivers. Because of fundamental, technological design differences, the systems used by public safety agencies are incompatible with those used by commercial carriers such as Nextel.

In August of 2004, the Federal Communications Commission issued an order requiring the reconfiguring of the 800 MHz bandwidth to minimize harmful interference to public safety radio communications. In essence, The FCC required public safety agencies to consolidate their operations to a narrow portion of the 800 MHz bandwidth while confining cellular operations to another part. This "re-banding" and consolidation will require some public safety agencies to, in essence, exchange their existing Federal Communications Commission licensed operating frequencies within the 800 MHz bandwidth with cellular operators, in Redwood City's case, Nextel.

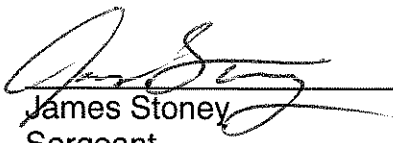
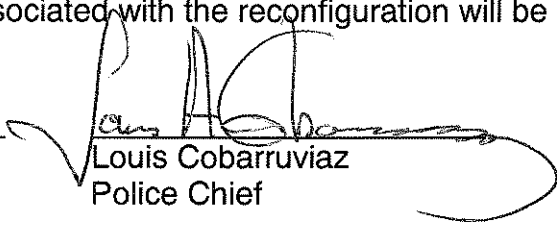
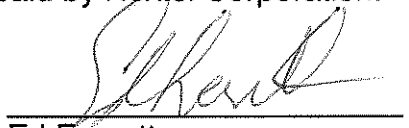
The reconfiguration process includes the modification or replacement of our current radio licenses to reflect new operating frequencies, while relinquishing our current licensed frequencies to Nextel. Nextel will reconfigure our existing facilities to comparable facilities that will operate on the replacement frequencies. This includes retuning, replacing or reprogramming radio repeaters, control systems, base or control stations as well as vehicle and portable radios.

ALTERNATIVES

Not enter into the Frequency Reconfiguration Agreement.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact. Costs associated with the reconfiguration will be paid by Nextel Corporation.


James Stoney
Sergeant
Louis Cobarruviaz
Police Chief
Ed Everett
City Manager

ATTACHMENTS

None

RELATED DOCUMENTS IN CITY CLERKS OFFICE

1. Frequency Reconfiguration Agreement