



ESTABLISHED 1850

# CITY OF VACAVILLE

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Councilmember

RECEIVED  
SEP 15 2015

Office of:  
The City Manager

September 9, 2015

SOLANO COUNTY  
GRAND JURY

Honorable E. Bradley Nelson, Presiding Judge  
Hall of Justice  
Department 4, Room 306  
600 Union Avenue  
Fairfield, CA 94533

**SUBJECT:        RESPONSES TO 2014-2015 GRAND JURY REPORT ENTITLED:  
Fire Protection Communication Consolidation**

Dear Judge Nelson:

This letter shall serve as the City of Vacaville's response in accordance with Penal Code §933.05 to the Grand Jury report entitled "Fire Protection Communication Consolidation" as approved by the Vacaville City Council on September 8, 2015.

## **FIRE PROTECTION COMMUNICATION CONSOLIDATION – CITY OF VACAVILLE (FINDINGS 1, 2, 3, 4) - RESPONSES**

### **FINDING 1**

Studies done over the past 30 years have recommended consolidation of fire agency resources.

### **RESPONSE TO FINDING 1**

City of Vacaville agrees with finding.

### **RECOMMENDATION 1**

Solano County Board of Supervisors takes the lead to create a formal leadership group to implement a plan to consolidate fire agency resources.

### **RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION 1**

The City of Vacaville is aware that the Solano County Fire Chiefs Association supports the concept of consolidation of fire resources, providing that there is a lead authority appointed, an inclusive workgroup of representative fire agencies formed and that appropriate and sustainable funding sources/savings are identified and allocated to further the concept. The City of Vacaville supports evaluation of a potential regional consolidation of dispatch centers. However, such evaluation needs to include a variety of alternatives to facilitate consolidation so that it can be achieved within the financial means of the affected organizations.

**FINDING 2**

City Fire Departments and independent Fire Districts in the County have begun to collaborate in acquiring equipment, hardware and software.

**RESPONSE TO FINDING 2**

City of Vacaville agrees with finding.

**RECOMMENDATION 2**

City Fire Departments and independent Fire Districts implement a "shared consolidation" for the purpose of obtaining equipment, hardware and software.

**RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION 2**

The City of Vacaville is aware that the Solano County Fire Chiefs Association supports the concept of "shared consolidation" (sometimes referred to as a "functional consolidation") for the acquisition of equipment, hardware and software, providing that there is a lead authority appointed, an inclusive workgroup of representative fire agencies formed and that appropriate and sustainable funding sources/savings are identified and allocated to further the concept. The City of Vacaville supports this concept with the understanding that equipment, hardware and software should be compatible and consistent throughout the county.

**FINDING 3**

Fire communications consolidation will improve public safety.

**RESPONSE TO FINDING 3**

City of Vacaville agrees with finding.

**RECOMMENDATION 3**

Implement fire communications consolidation to enhance public safety.

**RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATION 3**

The City of Vacaville is aware that the Solano County Fire Chiefs Association supports the concept of a consolidation of fire communications centers and operations, providing that there is a lead authority appointed, an inclusive workgroup of representative fire agencies formed and that appropriate and sustainable funding sources/savings are identified and allocated to further the concept. The City of Vacaville agrees that consolidated communications could improve public safety by minimizing the amount of phone calls between dispatch centers during times of master mutual aid. Enhanced Emergency Medical Directive dispatching from a regional perspective could also improve emergency medical services. However, the structural impacts and costs of consolidation need to be considered by the affected agencies prior to implementation.

Sincerely,



Laura C. Kuhn  
City Manager

cc: Vacaville City Council  
Frank Drayton, Interim Fire Chief