

**RESOLUTION NO. 2013 - 007**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING THE TOWN'S SUPPORT FOR THE ADOPTION OF A PLAN FOR COOPERATIVE COUNTYWIDE CONSOLIDATION OF E-911 COMMUNICATIONS AND DISPATCH WHOLLY FUNDED THROUGH COUNTY AD VALOREM TAXES.**

**WHEREAS**, prior to 1992, there were several E-911 dispatch centers operating independently in Broward County; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1992, Broward County created a regional communications system, fully funded by County revenues, utilizing an 800 MZ system, and offered all other agencies the opportunity to join the regional system at no charge; and

**WHEREAS**, some agencies joined the regional communications system and provided their radio frequencies to Broward County for use by the system, but numerous other agencies continued to operate their own dispatch systems; and

**WHEREAS**, following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack, additional concerns were raised regarding interoperability of the various dispatch systems operating in Broward County; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2002, the electorate of Broward County voted overwhelmingly to amend Section 5.03(A) of the Broward County Charter to provide for the establishment and County funding of a communications infrastructure for fire and emergency medical services, as follows:

The County Commission with cooperation from Municipalities shall establish a countywide communications infrastructure for fire and emergency medical services. The County shall provide funding for the communications infrastructure and all service providers will utilize the elements of the communications infrastructure. The communications infrastructure shall facilitate closest unit response for life-threatening emergencies and support for regional specialty teams;; and

**WHEREAS**, since 2002, through the leadership of the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, the County has successfully implemented and funded significant and meaningful advances toward interoperability, including the funding of the regional Public Safety Communications Committee (RPSCC) overseeing the development of County-wide interoperability for CAD, Radio, Law Records and Fire Records for all cities irrespective of the police and/or fire provider; and

**WHEREAS**, notwithstanding the 2002 amendment to the County Charter, there continues to be 10 independent dispatch systems operating in Broward County, and

**WHEREAS**, since 2010, hundreds of hours have been dedicated to analyzing the feasibility of cooperative consolidation of the E-911 communications and dispatch system; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2010, the Broward League of Cities initiated a "Public Safety Answering Points Task Force," a multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary team of public safety professionals, staff, and elected officials; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 21, 2010, the Communications Technology Division of the Broward Sheriff's Office issued an extensive "Consolidation Feasibility Analysis", which highlighted that there were 10 different Public Safety Answering Points ("PSAPs") for the purposes of E-911 Communications and Dispatch, which provide differing levels of performance, costs per call, and equipment utilization; and

**WHEREAS**, the Consolidation Feasibility Analysis concluded that E-911 Dispatch operations for all Broward County Police, Fire, EMS and Sheriff agencies should be fully consolidated into three PSAPs, under a unified organizational structure, which would improve citizen/officer safety, eliminate call transfers that result in delayed response, result in significant cost savings, and promote efficient and cost effective migration to new technologies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Consolidation Feasibility Analysis study was presented in November 2010 to the Broward League of Cities, and as a result it was agreed that a taskforce should be formed to further consider implementation; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2011, the Public Safety Committee of the Broward League of Cities, the Fire Chief's Association of Broward County, the Broward County Chiefs of Police Association, the Fire-Rescue Services Council, the Broward County City Managers Association, and the Board of Directors of the Broward League of Cities all adopted and supported resolutions calling for an implementation process for cooperative consolidation of E-911 communications and dispatch; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 1, 2011, through the leadership of the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, and with the cooperation of the Broward League of Cities, the County Commission ratified the formation of the Broward County Consolidated Communications Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 1, 2012, the Broward County Consolidated Communications Committee, co-chaired by a representative of the Board of the County Commissioners and Broward League of Cities, issued a Report and Recommendations for Cooperative Consolidation of E-911 Communications; and

**WHEREAS**, the Report and Recommendations of the Broward County Consolidated Communications Committee recommended the implementation of cooperative consolidation of E-911 communications and dispatch; and

**WHEREAS**, the Report and Recommendations of the Broward County Consolidated Communications Committee provided that funding must be equitable, stable, and predictable; funding must take into account that this is a regional function; and that any interlocal agreements should provide for equity of funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the Broward County Consolidated Communications recommended three potential funding options, including a Municipal Services Taxing Unit Millage set by Broward County Commission and dedicated to communications only; a service agreement predicated upon usage, population, taxable value, or some combination of the three; or County funding through ad valorem taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 27, 2012, the Broward County Commission adopted a resolution creating the Broward County Consolidated Communications Implementation Advisory Board (the "I-Board"), for the purpose of reviewing, considering and making recommendations to the Broward County Commission and municipalities relating to the creation, governance, funding, and operations of a regional and cooperative consolidated E-911 communications system, and to develop an interlocal agreement to be utilized by all participants in the regional and cooperative consolidated E-911 System; and

**WHEREAS**, the I-Board has held numerous meetings and it has become clear that the only feasible, truly stable and wholly equitable method of funding a consolidated communications and dispatch system is through County ad valorem taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, because the consolidation of 911 communications is a critical public safety function, stability of funding is a crucial component of any regionalization plan; and

**WHEREAS**, uncertainties about the stream of funding, either because of doubts about any single individual municipality or group of municipalities being able to meet their financial obligations or the potential implementation of protest strategies surrounding funding, would destabilize the system and jeopardize the safety of residents, officers, and fire-rescue personnel; and

**WHEREAS**, because the countywide communications system is a regional service, analogous to regional libraries and regional parks, Broward County should operate the system (or contract for its operations) and should fully fund the systems through County ad valorem taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities that are operating their own communications and dispatch systems would have the option to opt-out of joining the countywide communications system; and

**WHEREAS**, through the leadership of the Broward County Board of Commissioners, the County has made a significant and meaningful investment in

communications infrastructure and staffing to the betterment of the communications systems in the County and to the benefit of all of the County's residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the County is in the process of returning the Communications Technologies Division to the County Administrator; and

**WHEREAS**, on September 21, 2012, the I-Board voted 16-2 (with only Broward County and Coral Springs dissenting), to support this resolution and the adoption of a plan for cooperative countywide consolidation of E-911 communications and dispatch, to be operated (or contracted for operation) by Broward County, and to be wholly funded through County ad valorem taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council finds it to be in the best interest of the residents of the Town, as well as all of Broward County, to support the adoption of a cooperative consolidation of E-911 communications and dispatch system fully funded through Broward County ad valorem taxes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida:

**Section 1:** The above-referenced recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.

**Section 2:** The Town Council supports the adoption of a cooperative consolidation of E-911 communications and dispatch.

**Section 3:** The Town Council requests the assistance of the Broward County Board of Commissioners, and seeks the continued leadership of the Broward County Board of County Commissioners, to continue to fund regionalization of 911 and dispatch communications and to fully fund the consolidated communications plan by Broward County through County ad-valorem taxes.

**Section 4:** The Town Clerk is directed to distribute this Resolution to the Board of County Commissioners for Broward County, and to the Broward County League of Cities.

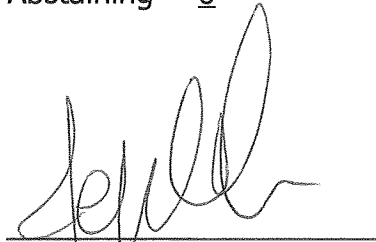
**Section 5:** The appropriate Town officials are authorized to execute all necessary documents to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

**Section 6:** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Town Council of the Town of Southwest Ranches, Florida, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of October 2012, on a motion by Council Member Fisikelli and seconded by Vice Mayor McKay.

Nelson YES  
McKay YES  
Breitkreuz YES  
Fisikelli YES  
Jablonski YES

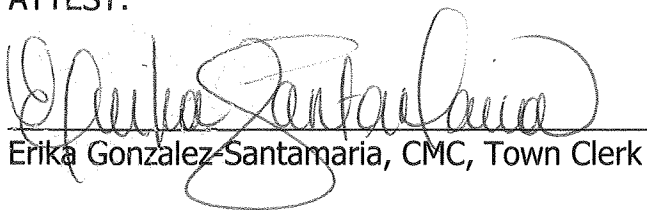
Ayes 5  
Nays 0  
Absent 0  
Abstaining 0



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Jeff Nelson, Mayor

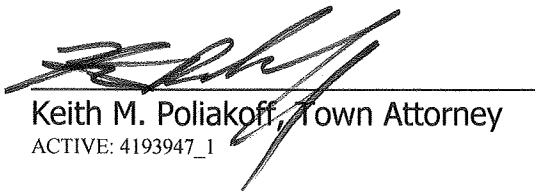
ATTEST:



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Erika Gonzalez-Santamaria, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved as to Form and Correctness:



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Keith M. Poliakoff, Town Attorney  
ACTIVE: 4193947\_1