

ITEM #: 9  
DATE: 1/27/09

## COUNCIL ACTION FORM

**SUBJECT: INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
DES MOINES METROPOLITAN INCIDENT COMMAND RADIO  
NETWORK (MICRN)**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Des Moines Metropolitan Incident Command Radio Network (MICRN) was created in 1994 to enhance immediate communications between public safety agencies and emergency responders in central Iowa in the event of an emergency. Emergencies include hazardous weather and non-weather emergencies like HAZMAT incidents, terrorist attacks, mass casualty events, flooding or any other events requiring inter-agency communications. The MICRN system is currently used by forty agencies in eight Iowa counties.

MICRN provides a standardized 800 MHz radio frequency for use by member agencies. The members provide their own appropriate radio equipment to monitor and broadcast on the MICRN frequency. The Ames Police Department has been a participating member of MICRN for many years. The standard 800 MHz radios in the Communications Center and those carried by officers are capable of operating on the MICRN frequency.

Recently the MICRN Executive Committee conducted a review and revision of their operating procedures. The purpose of the review was to make sure that the actions of MICRN complied with public meeting and records laws, that roles and responsibilities of members were defined, and to ensure that MICRN conforms to Iowa law governing public agency coordination and collaboration. The changes were significant enough that the Committee felt that a revision and renewal of the 28E agreement between participating agencies needed to be completed.

The new agreement places no new burden on the City of Ames either financially or in practice. It does clarify membership limitations, procedures for operation and use of the system, and penalties for misuse. To continue to participate in MICRN, the City needs to agree to the terms of the new 28E agreement.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the City of Ames participation in the 28E agreement with the Des Moines Metropolitan Incident Command Radio Network and the use of the radio system.
2. Do not approve the City of Ames participation in the 28E agreement with the Des Moines Metropolitan Incident Command Radio Network and the use of the radio system.

**MANAGER'S RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

MICRN provides an effective information resource for emergency responders within the City. Because it is connected through the Communications Center, information from the system is available to all emergency responders in the City. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council adopt Alternative No. 1, thereby approving the 28E agreement and participation in the Des Moines Metropolitan Incident Command Radio Network.