

**DOWNRIVER MUTUAL AID
REGULAR MEETING – June 4, 2009**

Item #4

Present:

Allen Park	Trustee Barbara Warren
Brownstown Twp.	
Ecorse	
Flat Rock	Councilman Paul Gagne
Gibraltar	
Grosse Ile Twp.	Alternate William Krauss
Huron Twp.	
Lincoln Park	Mayor Frank Vaslo
Melvindale	
River Rouge	
Riverview	Mayor Tim Durand
Rockwood	Chief Russ Van Wassehnova
Romulus	Delegate Tim Keyes, Economic Development Director
Southgate	Alternate Levon King
Taylor	Alternate Laurie Trueblood
Trenton	Councilman Terry Teifer
Woodhaven	
Wyandotte	

Others present: Chief Dan Grant and Chief Bill Vack

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Councilman Terry Teifer, at 6:04 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call and introductions.

Agenda: Motion by Mayor Durand, supported by Delegate Keyes, to accept the agenda as presented with one addition (800 MHz radio system upgrade). The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: Motion by Mayor Vaslo, supported by Chief Van Wassehnova, to accept the minutes of 5/7/09 as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Downriver Mutual Aid Report:

DRANO: Activity reports were included in the agenda for information.

Police: Chief Dan Grant reported that the SWAT team was active with call-outs in Allen Park for an active shooter. There were also call-outs to Huron Township, Southgate and Romulus for barricaded gunman situations. Question was raised of procedure followed for the Allen Park incident. The Detroit Police and State Police were present, but came to aide on their own. The Dive Team assisted Monroe County with a search.

Fire: Chief Bill Vack reported that everything has been pretty quiet; there were no calls for Arson Team or Haz Mat team.

New Business:

800 MHz Upgrade: Chief Dan Grant reported that approval is being requested to upgrade the 800 MHz radio system (resolution distributed). He said the DCC/DMA radio system is requiring significant upgrades to make it more interoperable to support communication as required throughout the State. Preliminary studies indicate that there could be a substantial benefit in joining systems with the State of Michigan, and the State has offered to pay for 50% of our upgrade costs if we join with their system. An upgrade of this magnitude could cost several million dollars. President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act/Stimulus money expected could assist in this upgrade effort. Even if we decide not to partner with the State, our system will require upgrades to ensure interoperability.

800 MHz Upgrade (continued):

Motion by Alternate Van Wassehnova, supported by Delegate Keyes, to approve the resolution requesting state legislators to consider our region's needs to upgrade its 800 MHz emergency radio system when selecting agencies to distribute the stimulus funds. The motion passed unanimously.

Chief Bill Vack voiced his concern with the State's coverage capability of the emergency radio system upgrades. He said that Monroe County switched over to the State's system and they are experiencing numerous difficulties with the system not working inside buildings. He stressed that Downriver Firefighters could not operate with anything less than what they are currently using. Chief Grant ensured there would be no reduction in current service.

Remarks from the Audience:

Ryan Werder of Congressman John Dingell's office: Ryan announced that the Appropriations Sub-committee approved \$650,000 for DMA preparedness projects (USDOJ-COPS grant).

Motion by Mayor Durand, supported by Delegate Keyes, to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.