

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



FROM: Supervisor Stone

SUBMITTAL DATE: November 29, 2011

SUBJECT: Cell phone Return Evaluating Necessity and Disconnecting Land Lines Efficiently in Riverside County (C-RENDER)

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board of Supervisors implements C-RENDER as a cost saving measure.

BACKGROUND:

As part of the S.C.R.A.P.E. (Safeguard County of Riverside Against Preventable Expenses) program **unanimously** approved by the Board of Supervisors in February/2009, reduction in cell phone expenditures was highlighted as an area where the county could save significant financial resources when the economy was in the early stages of fiscal collapse. Staff has reported that the county is still spending in excess of **\$3 million** dollars a year for cell phone expenses. It is estimated that the county has **9549** issued cell phones. While the cost of individual cell phone plans differs significantly, the average aggregate monthly cost for all county issued cell phones is **\$27.32 per month***. Purchasing Department should be commended for keeping the cell phone costs to this affordable Level.

The cell phone is a modern day tool that not only acts as a telephonic form of communication, but also functions as a computer for electronic forms of communication from any locality. The county has approximately 25,000 land lines that cost \$650,000 per year, this number of land lines and cost depict what county pays to Telco's (AT&T, Verizon, and Century Link (formerly Qwest)), not including costs departments pay for outgoing calls, Centrex, POTS and 1MB lines; and yearly maintenance, licensing and software assurance costs to the county phone system manufacturer. The great utility of the cell phone and its affordable costs should allow the county to disconnect many of the land lines and eliminate many stand-alone computers which require extensive, expensive support, ultimately saving the county millions of dollars. Certainly, some stand-alone computers can be shared for downloading and printing documents where needed in defined office spaces within all county buildings.

(continue on page two)

Jeff Stone, Third District Supervisor

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Stone, seconded by Supervisor Benoit and duly carried, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is referred to staff for review and a report back during budget hearing.

Ayes: Buster, Stone, Benoit and Ashley
Nays: None
Absent: Tavaglione
Date: December 6, 2011
xc: Supvr. Stone, EO, HR, COB

Kecia Harper-Ihem
Clerk of the Board
By:
Deputy

3.42

Furthermore, it can be assumed that most of our employees have private cell phones in today's contemporary society. In an effort to *save* the county even more money and add value for the employees of the county that have their own private phones, the county proposes the following voluntary partnership to those employees that have a department head approved county issued cell phone and have a private cell phone they can utilize.

Action: The Board of Supervisors will direct **Human Resources** and **Purchasing**, along with oversight in the **Executive Office** to work with all department heads to:

1. *Evaluate* the number of land lines in the county and **reduce the number of land lines** in proportion to the number of cell phones that negate the need for these respective land lines.
2. *Evaluate* those employees that are issued county cell phones and assess the efficacy of their utilization and **surrender** those cell phones deemed *non-essential* to the employee's duties.
3. Reach out to and contract with any **consenting** employee that has a county issued cell phone where staff has determined that a cell phone is vital to their employment and offer to pay the employee a monthly stipend of **\$20.00** such that their personal cell phones can be utilized for county related business while the employee works on county time. The county can then cancel respective contracts with the cell phone providers as those contracts expire.

Full implementation of this program will be **July 1st, 2012**, which will potentially save the county **millions of dollars** depending on the number of cell phone contracts that staff has determined are non-essential to the duties of a respective employee, the number of county employees that require a cell phone and wish to receive a county stipend for utilizing their personal cell phone while on county time and, the number of land lines being disconnected. These collective savings to the county will help us close the **\$80 million dollar gap** the county is now facing and hence saving many jobs.

Provider	Number of Cell Phone Lines
Verizon Wireless	3,209
AT&T	1,967
Sprint/Nextel	4,372
T-Mobile	1
Total (approx.)	9,549

*County Auditor's total for amount spent on county issued cell phones: $\$3,131,230.60/9549 = \$327.91/\text{year}$ or **\$27.32 per month**.



December 6, 2011

Chairman Bob Buster
Supervisor Marion Ashley
Supervisor John Benoit
Supervisor Jeff Stone
Supervisor John Tavaglione

RE: Board Item 3.42, C. RENDER

Dear Honorable Board Members:

Cell phones are integral to the command and control of our operations – including emergency operations – and are used to both supplement and backup our radio systems for safety purposes. We utilize multiple venders because no single vender can cover all of the locations within and without the County that our operations drive – we have tried over the years and no single vender can cover uniformly the deserts, remote mountain areas or urban areas. Our on-call investigators at crime scenes share information with other investigators dealing with suspects, forensics units, allied agency detectives, on-call deputy district attorneys and on-call magistrates in real-time. In addition, because our staff operate in law enforcement efforts outside Riverside County, including our Statewide inmate transportation runs, we utilize a variety of venders to maintain communications geographically with our department's chain of command. We issue these phones not to individuals, but by position; as individuals move or promote, the phones stay with the position, not the person.

Our cell phones are really blackberries in which reports, updates, resourcing and coordination communications all flow throughout the department by voice – or more often, email and documents – wherever our staff are conducting operations, including crime scenes, tactical operations, consultation with experts, reporting media inquiries on incidents, and deployment of resources. Supervisors and command staff communicate 24/7 not only among themselves but with our allied agencies and a host of outside civilian agencies that we must interface with in real time.

We do not issue these devices generally to “line” employees but to critical positions, the chain of command, and 24/7 on-call staff. When these individuals are reassigned or promote (often a geographic movement), these devices stay with the position, not the individual. In daily patrol operations, watch commanders – wherever they are – remain in constant communication dispatch operations behind the scenes, dealing with deployment to calls, assignments, and complaints from the public.

We cannot allow mixed use of government phones (private/personal and government use) without creating the unintended consequence of damaging our need to conduct audits, or periodic disciplinary and criminal investigations. There can be no expectation of privacy with our government phones whether texting, emailing, or usage – these devices have frequently proven useful in both disciplinary and criminal investigations for many law enforcement agencies and applying the proposed county policy hinders our ability to hold our employees accountable by placing that umbrella of privacy over those cell phone devices. This proposal (especially recommendation #3) severely hinders our ability to legally hold our law enforcement employees accountable, either for misuse or potential criminal activity. In addition it applies property rights to those devices/stipends upon reassignment, where no such rights now exist; this unnecessarily complicates reassignments, demotions and other personnel actions.

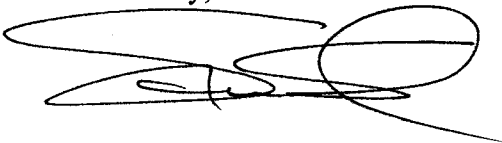
The costs – Net County Costs (NCC) – are less than 50% of what was stated earlier as general fund expenditure. Much of our operations are in police contracting, and those stakeholders demand real time updates and accountability for their services. Separate police departments and emergency responders utilize cellphones in exactly the same fashion as we do. No agency today can operate without them in reporting, controlling resources or conducting 24/7 operations.

In sum, this proposal, if applied to the Office of Sheriff, places our emergency operations at direct risk to the public, could damage our ability to provide law enforcement operations across 7,300 square miles, damages our ability to conduct our mandated reporting responsibilities, and makes an already complex and costly public safety effort far less cost-effective.

Insofar as unnecessary landlines and cell phone device review, we did exactly that in FY 08/09 after I took office in order to reduce costs early on in the budget crisis, and we will continue to monitor these areas by periodic review. We shut down a number of landlines no longer need and previously gained those savings.

The Board already has our commitment to tightly control these devices, and that commitment remains, but we cannot support this proposal and I request an exemption to this proposed blanket policy. A spot check of our current rate of issue of these devices today indicated the Sheriff's Office uses these devices at a roughly 1:10 ratio, far better than the County overall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stan Sniff', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Stan Sniff, Sheriff

CC: Larry Parrish, Interim Executive County Officer

**Riverside County Board of Supervisors
Request to Speak**

Submit request to Clerk of Board (right of podium),
Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject
Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form.

SPEAKER'S NAME: JULIE WALTZ

Address: _____
(only if follow-up mail response requested)

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone #: _____

Date: _____ **Agenda #** 3.42

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

_____ **Support** _____ **Oppose** ✓ **Neutral**

Note: If you are here for an agenda item that is filed
for "Appeal", please state separately your position on
the appeal below:

_____ **Support** _____ **Oppose** _____ **Neutral**

I give my 3 minutes to: _____

**Riverside County Board of Supervisors
Request to Speak**

Submit request to Clerk of Board (right of podium),
Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject
Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form.

SPEAKER'S NAME: Rebecca Smith

Address: _____

(only if follow-up mail response requested)

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone #: _____

Date: 12-6-11 **Agenda #** 3.42

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

_____ **Support** _____ **Oppose** _____ **Neutral**

Note: If you are here for an agenda item that is filed
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