

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

September 22, 2009

Relates to Item #44

Last year, the Sheriff’s Department requested approval to reassign the existing inmate telephone services contract from AT&T to Global Tel*Link (GTL), extend the contract period from December 2010 to December 2013, and accept \$6 million in additional revenues from GTL.

On April 8, 2008, the Board approved the assignment of the AT&T contract to GTL through the existing contract period (December 2010) in exchange for \$2.5 million and asked that the CEO work with the Sheriff to determine if we should extend the contract through 2013.

After much debate and discussion, on June 4, 2008, the Board unanimously agreed with the CEO’s recommendation to deny the extension request and put the contract out for competitive bid. The denial was primarily due to the high charges for inmate calls (\$3.54 for the first minute, plus \$.10 for each additional minute, for local calls), especially when compared with rates charged by other correctional institutions.

The Board was advised that since the County first entered into this contract in 2005, there have been technological advancements that would allow for higher call volume, and other efficiencies that could reduce rates. In fact, during the June Board

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meeting, the CEO, as well as representatives of other telephone companies, testified that it would be possible to obtain a contract providing lower rates and a higher quality of service.

This, in turn, could increase the amount of revenue to the Inmate Welfare Fund by the telephone company. The premise is simple: lower rates coupled with additional calling options mean higher call volume, which could result in higher revenues for the County. As CEO William T Fujioka indicated during the June hearing, the County wants to achieve two goals: (1) to lower the rates, and (2) to enhance this resource for the Sheriff's Department.

As part of today's actions related to the Supplemental Budget, the CEO and Sheriff have developed a plan to achieve savings amounting to \$25 million in the Sheriff Department budget. As part of this plan, it is assumed that \$2 million will come from extending the GTL contract by one year. However, this conflicts with prior Board and CEO direction. We concur with the CEO's assessment that putting this out to bid will result in a more competitive contract. In fact, it is possible that under a new contract, we may realize savings in excess of \$2 million.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the CEO and the Sheriff Department to:

- (1) Reaffirm the Board's previous direction to implement the CEO's recommendation to release an RFP for a new inmate telephone services contract as soon as practicable;
- (2) Report back in six months with an update on the status of the RFP process and transition into a new contract; and,
- (3) Allocate \$2 million from PFU to meet the Sheriff's curtailment requirement, as described in the CEO's September 15, 2009 report under this agenda item.

(4) Replace the \$2 million into PFU with revenues generated from the new phone contract if and when such revenues are generated.

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