

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – NOVEMBER 18TH, 2002

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL 02-092 **WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS**

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Economic/Technology Development and Communications, in consultation with the Director of Information Technology Services, and the Director of Purchasing Services, recommends:

- 1) That the Request for Proposal 02-092 be CANCELLED;
- 2) That staff continue to monitor organizational requirements and uses of wireless communications technologies, and bring related recommendations to Council when required.

Purpose

To CANCEL Request for Proposal 02-092, as it does not address complete organizational requirements and would not maximize potential uses/applications of wireless communications technologies.

Background - Analysis and Options

In April of 2002, a Request for Proposal 02-092 was issued. The intent of the RFP was to standardize/rationalize wireless communications carriers and equipment, and to take advantage of potential cost-reduction opportunities.

The approach used in the RFP 02-092 assumes that wireless communications devices (cellular phones, pagers, etc.) are merely communications devices. The RFP is primarily focused on rationalizing the number of carriers and devices in order to simplify management, administration and maintenance efforts and to reduce related costs.

Wireless communications devices (cellular phones, pagers, Personal Digital Assistants, etc.) should be viewed as strategic medium for delivery of information services to its users in both voice and data formats. By proceeding with the RFP 02-092, the City would limit its ability to benefit from ever-evolving communications technologies from various vendors, and to be able to deploy various communications technologies in order to facilitate access to information in both voice and data formats.

Conclusion

In order to facilitate easier access to information (voice and data) with the use of wireless communications devices, multiple vendor solutions should be considered and deployed as necessary. Organizational requirements for information access and evolution of communications technologies should be monitored on an on-going basis, and appropriate solutions should be introduced to address such needs.

Attachments

n/a

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Respectfully submitted,

FRANK MIELE, Commissioner
Economic/Technology Development, and
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