



September 7, 2021

Central Vermont Public Safety Authority

Dear Distinguished Board Members:

As you are aware, for over two years the public safety agency heads and city managers for the City of Montpelier and Barre City have been meeting to discuss common operational level issues which affect each of the two cities and their provision of emergency services. The current state of our radio communication system emerged as having the highest impact on public and responder safety. On a daily basis, the ongoing radio infrastructure issues and coverage problems that exist plague the delivery of Fire, EMS and Police services in both Barre and Montpelier.

On Monday August 30, 2021, the "Twin City" team consisting of Barre City Manager Mackenzie, Deputy Police Chief Eastman, Deputy Fire Chief Aldsworth, Fire Chief Brent and Montpelier City Manager Fraser, Police Chief Peete, Deputy Fire Chief Quinn and Fire Chief Gowans met to discuss the Televate report in its entirety. We felt it was important that our group reach consensus on the report, choose a direction and notify CVPSA of our position. We met for over two hours and reviewed the Televate Report and the Televate Power Point presentation. The focus of our discussion was based on the "System Cost and Preliminary Priority" slide #23.

The basis for our groups outlook on our recommendations is centered on the statement in the Televate Power Point Considerations slide #22 (Bold and Highlighted) "**Communications gaps require immediate attention. This is an issue of safety**". Listed below are the recommendations which were supported unanimously by the City Managers and Public Safety Chiefs from both cities.

Recommendations:

- Accept the Televate Report as submitted utilizing the "Dual Simulcast System Concept" (slide #16)
- Address the Upgrades as Outlined by Priority and Cost (Slide #23)
- Currently address and seek funding for only the Priority #1's
- It was the feeling of both cities that replacement of the dispatch consoles would be done at the expense of each, not as part of the regional plan. (\$700,000)
- This leaves a regional plan cost to be funded of \$3,930,000
- Support greater Fire/Police Chief participation on CVPSA Executive Board
- Increase town/department memberships to CVPSA

- Have CVPSA present their summary report (power point) to a joint meeting of the Barre City and Montpelier City Councils (see 8/30/21 request from Mgrs. Mackenzie/Fraser)
- Have CVPSA develop an acceptable/equitable funding formula/scheme for the remainder of the Priority #1 project components. (\$3,930,000)

We plan on being present at the upcoming meetings and are glad to give our input as needed to support this extremely important issue. As noted, the final upgrades are broken down as Priority 1, 2, and 3. Even though we support acceptance of the entire report, after much consideration and discussion it was agreed that only the Priority #1's should be moved forward at this time. This is a considerable amount of money and the industry derived cost estimates provided by Televate will likely have notable impacts throughout the first responder community. These are good, real numbers in today's marketplace based on solid information from third party engineering reports.

We are available for comment at your request.

Sincerely,

City of Montpelier

William Fraser, City Manager

Chief Brian Peete

Chief Robert Gowans

Deputy Chief James Quinn

City of Barre

Steven Mackenzie, City Manager

Chief Timothy Bombardier

Deputy Chief Larry Eastman

Chief Douglas Brent

Deputy Chief Joseph Aldsworth