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MEMORANDUM

To: Dane County Towns and Officials
From: Jerry Derr, DCTA President
Date: November 23, 2011
Re: Modified Intergovernmental Agreement For DaneCom

I'm writing to urge all Dane County Towns to approve and execute the modified intergovernmental agreement for the DaneCom system. The County modified the agreement so that the agreement will not be effective unless 80 percent of the towns, or 28. [Eighty percent is 27.2, which we interpret to mean 28, since 27 would be less than 80 percent]. That provision isn't perfect, but it's the best we're going to get. The radio system improvements are too important to our citizens, firefighters, EMS staff and police officers to pass up.

No one disputes that the proposed radio system will result in a major improvement in radio communications for all public safety agencies.

If we don't build the DaneCom system as proposed, we'll end up spending more money building separate systems that may or may not work together.

I urge approval of this agreement even though we all dislike the County shifting costs to the local units of government. We have been over that point dozens of times in the past three years. It isn't going to change.

No one is happy with this proposal, making it a true compromise. But the fact that we came together and solved this problem is a success. It's more than Congress seems to be able to do. Our constituents don't care about cost shifting. They expect us to do what is necessary to

assure that lives are not lost because we missed the chance to enhance public safety with a major upgrade in radio communications. The most important mission of government is protection of human life and safety. This intergovernmental agreement achieves that mission. Let's adopt it, and move forward.

However, the DCTA Board of Directors has not walked away from the issue of cost shifting. The Board wants to work with the County to identify a long-term funding source for the DaneCom system and other regional safety costs. We are meeting with County Executive Joe Parisi on November 30, and intend to raise that issue.

If you have questions about the intergovernmental agreement, please contact DCTA Legal Counsel Mark Hazelbaker.

This memo was drafted by DCTA Legal Counsel Mark Hazelbaker with direction of and review by DCTA President Gerald Derr