



News from: **Office of the City Administrator**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 20, 2012

### **Source of Radio Frequency Interference Impacting P25 Radios Has Been Identified**

Oakland, CA — As detailed in an Information Memorandum dated August 9, 2012, the City of Oakland's P25 Public Safety Radio System has been the subject of Radio Frequency (RF) interference which has caused a degradation to our users ability to communicate. Following notification by the City of Oakland on August 7, the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) began their own investigation.

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On August 16, after reviewing communications logs and discovering a pattern to reports of interference, the City's team working on the RF interference shared its findings with the local FCC agent. The FCC agent accompanied the team into the field to witness the condition and validated the interference using his own equipment. The FCC agent advised the City to begin the immediate process of notifying the party that is interfering with our radios (AT&T Wireless). The City of Oakland officially notified AT&T Wireless at 6 p.m. on August 16, giving them 24 hours to respond.

Together, the City's and AT&T Wireless' engineering teams conducted joint testing and validation of the RF conditions taking place at one of their tower locations on East Ninth Street. Both teams concluded that the AT&T 850MHz GSM cell site was causing significant interference to the City of Oakland's P25 System.

The City of Oakland further advised the AT&T personnel that it had data proving many of their cell sites were exhibiting the same problem and advised them of the FCC rules giving absolute priority to public safety users and requesting they take immediate action to resolve this situation.

As of the time of this release, 2G 850MHz GSM antennas at 16 AT&T cell sites have been shut down to resolve the RF interference experienced by the City's P25 System. 2G 1900MHz frequency and 3G and 4G are still active.

As the City of Oakland continues to work around the clock to identify additional sources of interference, the P25 team will review AT&T cell sites in neighboring cities whose signals transmit into Oakland as well as cell sites used by other wireless service providers.

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