



DANE COUNTY

Joe Parisi
County Executive

June 4, 2014

Dear Local Official:

Prior to my service as County Executive, Dane County and dozens of its local cities, villages, and towns agreed to proceed in partnership with development of a new radio communications network to serve our emergency responders and better help them coordinate management of incidents.

The project became known as "DaneCom" and I am writing to inform you that an important and long awaited phase of the project is upon us - - completion.

As some of you may know, part of "DaneCom" has been online and in use since last December. Since that time hundreds of fire and emergency medical services responders have been alerted to emergencies through the new "DaneCom" paging system and additional mutual aid channels for the new system have gone online as well.

The next phase of implementation is navigation over to the backbone of the system - - a VHF radio network with expanded coverage, capacity, and improved resiliency in the event of outages. It is our hope this system will be fully implemented this summer.

Consistent with the expectations outlined by the partners in this project, more than 1,350 unique testing points have confirmed this new system will have significantly improved coverage for responders whether they be on foot, in a vehicle, or in a building.

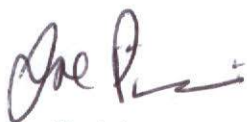
A highly technical sub-system approved by the "DaneCom" Governing Board - - a body made up of representatives from the Dane County Cities and Villages Association, the Dane County Towns Association, the Dane County Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services Associations - - will greatly enhance communications for responders at the scenes of critical incidents. While designed to be helpful to fire agencies, this new system could also greatly help law enforcement responses in bigger buildings.

Some may note transition to this new system is occurring several months after it was supposed to per the Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Harris Corporation, the vendor selected by a team of individuals representing all the partners in this project, has worked for months to resolve frequency interference issues resulting from a premium demand that exists on the type of radio frequencies our responders chose to build a system around - - VHF. Implementing "DaneCom" sooner, before filtering and other steps to mitigate interference, would have brought with it challenges for our responders.

That said, at my direction, Corporation Counsel is actively pursuing remedies with the vendor as a result of their delay. **If our efforts are successful, I intend to ask the County Board to re-direct those dollars into operations and maintenance reimbursement payments for local units of government who are partnering on the system.** I will keep you posted on the progress of those efforts.

“DaneCom” was designed to better connect responders in the field and help them work better together. With any transition from more than 20 year old technology to a state of the art radio network like the one we built together, there will no doubt be learning opportunities. Together, we will work through them and maximize the incredible investment we made collaboratively.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe Parisi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Joe Parisi
Dane County Executive