

CONSENT CALENDAR
September 11, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Laurie Capitelli

Subject: Enhanced 911 Information

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission the advisability of making available to public safety personnel auxiliary volunteered information about Berkeley residents. Request the Commission hear a presentation from Alan North of SMART 911 and report back to the City Council on their findings and recommendations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

BACKGROUND

Outside of a database with information relating to members of the disabled community and administered by Easy Does It, the City of Berkeley has no mechanism for collecting, storing, and disseminating critical health and property information residents may wish to make available to public safety personnel in case of an emergency. "Smart 911" is a private, commercial venture located in Berkeley, that has developed such a system. (See <https://www.smart911.com>)

With a Smart 911-type system, emergency responders could immediately have access to critical information that might not otherwise be available to those on the scene, and that might be of enormous assistance in responding to an emergency in a timely and efficient manner:

- Health history of the injured
- Profile of property residents
- Directions to property
- Unique physical characteristics of the property that might facilitate quick access.
- Pets on the property

Though access to more information is generally beneficial, there are concerns about how that information is accessed and maintained:

- How would a private system interface with the City's in a seamless manner?

- Would citizen expectations regarding emergency response become unreasonable or unrealistic?
- How could public safety personnel be 100% sure the information was current and correct?
- How would HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) restrictions and guidelines be addressed?
- How would local changes interface with the California 911 system?

We expect the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission will review the risks and benefit of such a system and report back to Council.

CONTACT PERSON

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