

BY COMMISSIONER _____

WHEREAS, St. Louis County, through its 911 Emergency Communications Division, provides radio communications services for law enforcement, fire, and first responder agencies within the county for the protection of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the St. Louis County Board recognizes the need to provide radio systems that are reliable, compliant with federal standards in the long term, and have the safety of the county's citizens, law enforcement, fire, and first responders as a first priority; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) provides an unprecedented framework for interoperability of radio systems during all incidents; and

WHEREAS, the current VHF radio systems used for public safety dispatch and radio communications within St. Louis County are nearing the end of serviceable life as mandated by Federal Communications Commission's standards for narrow-band compliance in 2013.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the St. Louis County Board intends to explore State of Minnesota Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) as the potential preferred alternative replacing public safety communication infrastructure within the county and becoming a full participant in the ARMER System.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the appropriate county officials are authorized to enter into a participation plan (hereinafter "Plan") necessary for the transition of St. Louis County's emergency radio systems to the ARMER system.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Plan shall include and provide for a proposed budget for the integration of public safety agencies to the ARMER public safety communication system, proposals for local enhancements or improvements required for county participation and a proposed plan for equipment and services necessary to complete the integration of public safety agencies to the ARMER public safety communication system.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that St. Louis County's participation is contingent upon receipt of significant funding support from the State of Minnesota Department of Public Safety and other funding sources (grants, federal appropriations), so that the financial burden of conversion to the ARMER system is not borne solely by county property taxpayers.