

RESOLUTION ADVANCING NEW PUBLIC SAFETY TECHNOLOGY IN CONSTRUCTION WITHIN ARLINGTON COUNTY

Adopted by the Arlington County Board – October 22, 2013

WHEREAS, Arlington County strives to be a diverse and inclusive world-class urban community with **secure**, attractive residential and commercial neighborhoods where people unite to form a caring, learning, participating, sustainable community in which each person is important; and

WHEREAS, Arlington County has a robust and dynamic history of development based on “Smart Growth” principles; and

WHEREAS, the safety of public safety personnel, visitors, residents, and tenants of offices and dwellings in Arlington County is of paramount importance; and

WHEREAS, communication between, among, and with public safety personnel is critical to protecting public safety in the County, and the use of some new building materials over the past several years in Arlington County has in many instances degraded the ability of public safety personnel to communicate with radios; and

WHEREAS, previous solutions to communications problems within buildings (such as firefighter’s phones and unamplified radiating coaxial cable) may no longer meet current and upcoming public safety needs; and

WHEREAS, the need for communication with public safety personnel in Arlington County goes beyond the use of portable radios for voice communication and now entails other devices that transmit digital video and other data; and

WHEREAS, it may be several years until the Commonwealth of Virginia will review and adopt any new building code standards; and

WHEREAS, Arlington County public safety and technology staff, in consultation with the business community, have developed a performance based standard to ensure current and future voice, video, and data transmission through and out of buildings, thereby enabling communication between and among public safety personnel: and

WHEREAS, a number of partners in the development community have committed to the use of an enhanced in building wireless communication system and connection to a public safety “first responder network”; and

WHEREAS, Arlington County has invested in a robust fiber optic network ensuring communication between and among public buildings that can also be used to monitor public safety communications within all buildings; and

WHEREAS, the provision of secure communications capabilities within and among new commercial and residential buildings are important attributes of buildings that will attract new businesses, residents and visitors;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT:

1. Arlington County remains firmly committed to the protection of the safety of all its residents, workers, visitors and businesses;
2. The Arlington County Board commends the adoption by many of our business partners of the technical performance criteria referenced above;
3. The Arlington County Board urges all current and future developers to adopt the standard;
4. The Arlington County Board commits to use of this standard in all future public facilities;
5. The Arlington County Board commits to work with current owners of buildings to assess their buildings for communication readiness;
6. The Arlington County Board urges the Commonwealth to adopt, as part of the standards covering building and fire safety, a performance based standard on public safety communication similar to the standard adopted by many members of the Arlington business community at the earliest opportunity.