



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

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STAFF REPORT
August 22, 2006

**Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council**

Title: Report Back: Sharing City Code Enforcement Information with Police Officers in the Field

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: Receive and file. This is a report back concerning the feasibility of delivering City code enforcement data to police officers in the field.

Contact: Stephen R. Ferguson, Chief Information Officer, 808-8600

Presenters: N/A

Department: Police, Code Enforcement and Information Technology

Division: Administration

Organization No: 2110, 4651, 1311

Description/Analysis

Issue: City police officers do not currently have direct access to code enforcement data from their vehicles or staff offices. While sharing this data is technically possible, the City's traditional approach to delivering IT services in a departmental context presents some challenges.

First, in order to provide police officers access to code enforcement information, the data in these different data bases would need to be linked through a common location identifier that does not currently exist.

Second, network communications issues would have to be worked out requiring agreements that span multiple City and vendor network boundaries (firewalls). This issue is made more difficult by the fact that the system that supports Code Enforcement is hosted at an off-site vendor facility.

Third, police officers would have to be trained in what data is available from the code enforcement system and provided information on the meaning of that data.

Finally, the radio system that transmits data to the police cars is old and has very limited capacity (19,200bps citywide). Adding the volume of code enforcement information to an already overloaded system would create more contention for scarce network capacity.

Policy Considerations: Not applicable for this report.

Environmental Considerations: Not applicable for this report.

Rationale for Recommendation / Financial Considerations: Following are some representative examples of alternatives to approaching this goal of sharing data between Code Enforcement and Police.

- A. Provide Code Enforcement Data Repository and web services for delivery to officers in the field through a web interface (Approx. costs \$300- \$500k).

Advantages - An onsite data repository would allow the City to provide reliable, consistent, and efficient delivery of data to police systems in the City's complex environment. It would allow for the integration of different spatial reference systems and ensure accurate case identification for police officers. Data delivery could be streamlined in a web interface to ensure the most efficient delivery of data and minimize impacts to the radio transition network and existing applications. This could be phased to public safety staff offices first and then later delivered to field officers once the wireless communications issues are addressed.

Disadvantages – Significant investment of resources to develop repository and web services. Data will be duplicated from off-site vendor repository.

- B. Provide Code Enforcement Data Repository and data integration with Versaterm CAD system (Approx. Costs \$250 - \$300k plus unknown Versaterm integration costs).

Advantages - An onsite data repository would allow the City to provide reliable, consistent, and efficient delivery of data to police systems in the City's complex environment. It would allow for the seamless integration of different spatial reference systems and ensure accurate case identification for police officers. Data delivery could be integrated directly into the existing tools used by officers and minimize impacts to the radio transmission network.

Disadvantages – It is unknown at this time if integration with the Versaterm CAD system is feasible. Versaterm CAD is an off-the-shelf product that PD did not customize so that they may upgrade and stay current with new software releases from the vendor. There may be an opportunity for the vendor to expand functionality of the core systems to accommodate this type of information.

- C. Provide police officers direct access to existing off-site hosted application through independent handheld device (Costs Unknown at this time).

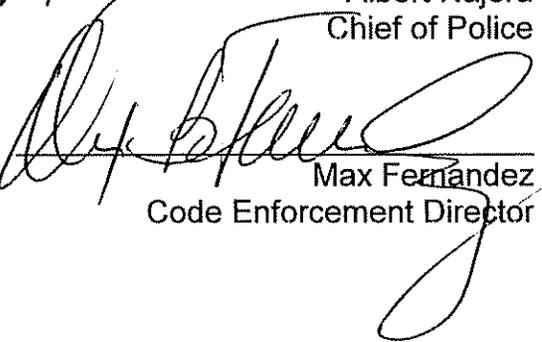
Advantages – Access to the existing off-site system would have little to no impacts on the existing applications and transmission network.

Disadvantages - It is unknown at this time what the total cost would be. Coordination and maintenance, training etc... would be resource intensive. Cost for individual access would be determined by vendor. Reliability of the system is uncertain. Data delivery efficiency would be unfocused for officers and as a result create more overhead than a targeted delivery. Reference accuracy low would be low as PD systems use address as the main spatial reference, Code enforcement uses APN. Officers would need to reconcile differences manually. This could result in inaccurate referencing and would require many additional keystrokes etc...

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): Not applicable to this item as no services or purchases are being approved.

Approved by: 
Stephen R. Ferguson
Chief Information Officer

Approved by: 
Albert Najera
Chief of Police

Approved by: 
Max Fernandez
Code Enforcement Director

Recommendation Approved:


Ray Kerridge
City Manager

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Attachment 1

Background

- A. The City of Sacramento has a diverse IT infrastructure. There are many systems both in-house and off-site that hold enterprise as well as departmental applications and data. Individual systems are often focused and targeted at meeting the needs of a very specific business process within departments. Data sharing and integration historically have not been a priority in the city. The integration of code enforcement information with the Master Address Data Base so that it could be imported into the Police RMS, would require that communication span many City network divisions (firewalls), radio systems to the police cars, as well as communication with an off site hosted application.
- B. In addition to these integration issues, data storage standards, and management of records varies as well between these two departmental systems. One key issue that makes sharing difficult is that each system has its own spatial referencing standard. The Code Enforcement system uses the Assessor Parcel Number to indicate the location of the event. The Police Department's CAD/RMS system use street address for event location.
- C. It is important to note that there is not a direct correlation between these reference systems (Assessor Parcels and Addresses). A good example of the difference would be an apartment complex that may have hundreds of individual residential units (addresses) but may be recorded by the Assessor under a single parcel number.
- D. Considerable effort would be required to link these separate systems together and successfully deliver code enforcement data to police officers and/or police incident information to Code Enforcement Officers. An approach that would help the city accomplish this goal would be to create a citywide data warehouse using the Master Address Database as the common thread. A data warehouse linked to the Master Address Database could serve as a focal point to connect data from other City systems together allowing data from each system to be linked to a common location identifier. Once linked, the data from each department's system could be shared with the other department.

