

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jason E. Brown, County Administrator

THROUGH: Richard B. Szpyrka, P.E., Public Works Director

FROM: Manny Cabo, Telecommunications Manager

SUBJECT: IRC Courthouse - Proposed new Comcast ISP Service for WIFI and Cellular Signal Extender

DATE: June 12, 2018

BACKGROUND

IRC Telecommunications recently received a request from Indian River County Sheriff's Office - Judicial Services Unit at IRC Courthouse, to look into options for improving cellular signal coverage in the vicinity of IRC Courthouse - Security Central Office. This is the main operations center for all security / public safety surveillance systems at Indian River County Courthouse.

Cellular signal coverage for AT&T cellular telephones at this location is currently acceptable, but cellular signal coverage for Verizon cellular telephones is currently relatively nonexistent. This is in effect, a cellular dead spot for Verizon cellular signal / coverage.

IRC Telecommunications was able to negotiate with Verizon Wireless Inc. to provide a Verizon cellular signal repeater unit (Femtocell device) at no cost to the County, primarily for use by IRCSO Security personnel at IRC Courthouse. This Cellular service can also function as a backup to IRCSO radio systems at IRC Courthouse, in the event of an emergency or a Courthouse radio systems failure condition, for Verizon user cellular telephones. In order for the new Verizon cellular signal repeater to function, a local ISP/WIFI network connection is required. The Verizon Femtocell is not programmable only for use by specific County / IRCSO cellphones. The Verizon Femtocell device requires public WIFI for optimal use. County could not configure this new Femtocell device on the existing IRC Courthouse corporate network, as it would open the IRC network to public cellular access use, which is unacceptable.

ANALYSIS

IRC Courthouse currently has limited Comcast ISP (Internet Service Provider) public WIFI service, which was primarily installed for use by attorneys, public defenders, and IRC Courthouse Judges, with minimal public access. This public WIFI service was installed and paid for by the Florida BAR Association. The current bandwidth of this Comcast ISP service is 75 Meg. This Comcast ISP service currently costs Florida BAR Association \$150.00 per month. It is estimated that the bandwidth required for the new Verizon Femtocell is optimally 20 Meg. Adding this device to the

existing 75 Meg - Florida BAR / Comcast ISP service would severely restrict available network bandwidth.

IRC Telecommunications was able to negotiate a proposal with Comcast Inc. for 250 meg ISP/WIFI service at IRC Courthouse, using the existing WIFI systems hardware at a \$150.00 per month discounted rate. Total recurring monthly cost for this Comcast ISP service would be \$214.90. There is also a one-time \$199.00 fee for the new IRC / Comcast ISP service installation at IRC Courthouse site. The current offer from Comcast for this service expires on June 21st 2018.

For the past several years, the Indian River Bar Association has been paying to have wifi internet connection in the courtrooms for the benefit of the judges and attorneys. Staff contacted the Bar Association's Board of Directors who agreed to have the upgrades made to the existing system and will continue to contribute \$125 per month toward the cost of the new system. The Bar Association will make an annual payment or a monthly payment, whichever the Budget or Finance office recommends.

FUNDING

Funding for the Comcast 250 Meg ISP Service at IRC Courthouse is available in Facilities Management, Other Contractual Services, 00122019-033490.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the proposed conversion of the existing Florida BAR Association 75 Meg IPS / public WIFI service at IRC Courthouse, to the new IRC 250 Meg ISP / public WIFI service, at the greatly discounted rate. Staff recommends the approval of the Florida BAR Associations offered to contribute \$125.00 per month toward the recurring monthly cost for this service for the Courthouse. Staff recommends approval for the Public Works Director to sign the attached agreement on behalf of the County.

ATTACHMENT

Proposal / Agreement from Comcast Inc. for new 250 Meg ISP Service at IRC Courthouse.

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR JUNE 19, 2018