

May 20, 2025

Honorable Mayor and City Council  
City of Long Beach  
California

### RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to authorize the City Manager, or designee, to execute all documents necessary including a Revocable License for Non-Federal Use of Real Property with US Department of Veterans Affairs, to use a portion of Building 126 Penthouse and Building 126 Rooftop, located at Tibor Rubin Veteran Affairs Medical Center with address at 5901 E 7th St, Long Beach, CA 90822, for three years for hosting a signal boosted antenna. (Citywide)

### DISCUSSION

City Council approval is requested to enter into an agreement with the US Department of Veterans Affairs for use of the Tibor Rubin Veteran Affairs Medical Center (Medical Center) to host a signal boosted antenna at that location. The Technology and Innovation Department (TID) manages the City of Long Beach's (City) public safety radio system, including the licensing of radio spectrum through the Federal Communication Commission (FCC), and coordinates the City's radio spectrums with the Southern California region in collaboration with the Long Beach Fire and Long Beach Police Departments.

On November 5, 2019, the City Council authorized the City Manager to grant Express Consent Agreements to property owners, or their delegates, for the retransmission of public safety radio frequencies into buildings. This action is necessary in instances where external public safety radio signals are unable to penetrate the building infrastructure. The express consent agreements authorized building owners or their representatives to improve public safety radio communications inside buildings which is the responsibility of the building owner.

As part of the ongoing efforts to strengthen public safety radio coverage, TID proposes entering into a lease agreement with the US Department of Veterans Affairs. This lease will support improvements in radio communications by allowing the City to install and operate public safety equipment on top of the facility. The installation of VHF/UHF receivers for Police and Fire radio channels is a key component to improve radio signals in critical areas.

The City's Southeast and Downtown areas are particularly challenging for radio coverage due to a combination of terrain elevation changes, dense building clusters, and lower ground elevations. These factors can create "radio shadows" where portable radios struggle to maintain a strong signal, especially for personnel working inside buildings or in below-grade areas like underground parking or stairwells. Without a reliable signal, first responders may

miss critical information, experience delays in coordinating efforts, or be unable to call for backup—all of which increase risk to both the public and emergency personnel.

The Medical Center is a strategic location and sits as one of the tallest structures in the southeast area of the City. The height of the building is important because it allows signals to travel over greater distances, provides better reception, and reduces interference caused by natural and manmade obstacles.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Adam Jacobs April 23, 2025, and by Budget Analysis Officer Greg Sorensen on April 30, 2025.

### TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on May 20, 2025, to ensure the license to use a portion of the US Department of Veterans Affairs' property at the Medical Center is in place expeditiously.

### FISCAL IMPACT

This recommendation authorizes the City Manager to obtain a license for non-federal use of real property located at US Veterans Affairs (VA) Tibor Rubin VA Medical Center. This transaction has no cost or fiscal impact. This recommendation has no staffing impact beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties and is consistent with existing City Council priorities. There is no local job impact associated with this recommendation.

### SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



Lea D. Eriksen  
Director  
Technology and Innovation

APPROVED:



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THOMAS B. MODICA  
CITY MANAGER