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### **HOW THE AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNITY PROTECTS SAN DIEGO**

The amateur radio (“ham radio”) community provides free primary and backup communications support for critical services (e.g., hospital, fire, military, maritime, public safety and disaster preparedness and relief). It did so with great efficiency during the recent Witch Creek and Cedar Fires. It works directly with the Red Cross and other emergency service providers.

These free services not only provide critical communication lines, but also save the city more than \$2.5 million in annual labor costs and millions more in equipment costs. Local amateur radio enthusiasts have invested approximately \$6 million in their own equipment and contributed uncounted thousands of man hours of personal labor to preparation, self-training, and emergency response.

Because of this value to their communities, the talented national pool of ham radio operators has been given certain rights under federal and state law, which requires the city to afford ham operators reasonable accommodation, facilitation and encouragement and the establishment of minimal practicable regulation.

The city’s proposed ordinance is a clear violation of those protections.

Amateur radio has been in existence for almost a century and from its earliest days it has provided emergency communications “when all else fails.” There are 650,000 licensed in the United States and over 100,000 in California.

The City of San Diego alone has nearly 4,000 license amateur radio operators and approximately 9,000 hams live within the County.

These civic-minded individuals voluntarily contribute vital communications for many City agencies during both everyday events and disasters. They have provided critical communication during local emergencies but they also provide ongoing communication services for the Red Cross, San Diego County Emergency Operations Center, San Diego County Sheriff, Hospital emergency Services, CAL FIRE, U.S. Marine Corps Base Miramar, California Emergency Management Agency (formerly known as Governor’s Office of Emergency Services), Miramar Air Show, the Thunderboat Regatta and the Mother Goose Parade, among others.

San Diego’s amateur radio operators spend more than \$2 million annually at the local Ham Radio Outlet store in Kearny Mesa, generating more than \$150,000 in sales tax revenue. The San Diego Amateur Radio Convention brings more than \$150,000 in convention business and 1,000 room nights to San Diego.