



HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Information Technology Center

Bruce High
Executive Director & CIO

July 22, 2014

Dear Harris County Department/Contract Radio System Users:

Over five years ago, Harris County Radio Services, which owns and manages Texas Wide Area Radio Network (TxWARN) System infrastructure, put users on notice that Digital Radios compliant with Project 25 (P25) rules would be coming. That day is here.

With financial assistance from Federal Grants, the new P25 Radio System is in place and available for use. The migration to the new system has begun. The migration will take place over the next year and our collective goal is to complete the migration by September of 2015.

It is important to understand the P25 requirements are FCC requirements and do not have their origin in decisions of Harris County or any of our partners.

There are two very important future dates to remember: **December 2015** and **December 2016**.

In December 2015, the legacy Harris County owned analog 4.1 system sites will go off the air. There are two reasons for this. First, it is not P25 compliant and second, the analog product will no longer be supported by the manufacturer.

The second very important date is December 2016. After that date, the current FCC mandate is to require all P25 700 MHz radios to be narrow banded, or TDMA (Time Division Multiple Access). TDMA allows spectrum to be cut into smaller pieces allowing more talk paths over a given piece of spectrum. Minimum requirements for purchasing radios are that they must be TDMA compliant and have radio authentication. Note that upgrading after initial purchase typically costs more than at the initial point of purchase.

Our Radio Network Operation Center is here to help and assist any or all agencies with the transition or to answer questions. Please feel free to contact Harris County Radio Services at 713-274-8800 or 877-8TXWARN so we can assist you with your needs. Our web site is <http://www.harriscountytexas.gov/itc/trsradio/default.aspx>

Thank you,

Craig Bernard
Director of Radio Services