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# INFOBULLETIN

## PSCC project takes a step back... to move forward

If you read the announcement posted on our website on June 7<sup>th</sup>, you might be left with a few lingering questions about the status of our new public safety communications center (PSCC).

Despite the agency making progress toward its new building over the past few years, there were times South Sound 911 had to take a few steps back. The agency lost a couple of promising building sites, but we eventually found one at 3580 Pacific Ave.

Demolition of the old Puget Sound Hospital, which currently occupies the

site, is being managed by the current property owner, Pierce County. Demolition began in March and since then the abatement work within (the removal of contaminants) has been ongoing. Progress will really begin to become evident when the first of the two hospital buildings comes down sometime soon, and the site is expected to be graded in anticipation of South Sound 911's PSCC by the end of the year.

Now, South Sound 911 is looking for an architectural and engineering team to design the PSCC. A request

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## Dispatch mergers and moves

### *South Sound 911 futher consolidates emergency communications*

As of 6 a.m., May 16, all of the local law enforcement communications services in the county are provided from a communications center in Tacoma — now known as South Sound 911's Law Enforcement Communications Center. The center answers 911 calls countywide and provides dispatch service for all 19 local police agencies.

Until then, law enforcement communications were provided

from two centers — the Eastside Communications Center in Puyallup, and the South 35<sup>th</sup> Street Communications Center in Tacoma.

Prior to South Sound 911's consolidation efforts, there were four local law enforcement 911 centers operating in Pierce County.

The physical merging of these communications centers is the first step in the agency's goal to

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Prior to South Sound 911's consolidation efforts, there were **four** local law enforcement 911 centers operating in Pierce County.

## Puget Sound Hospital demolition information

Demolition of the old hospital is progressing, in preparation for the construction of South Sound 911's new facility. Safety concerns are being addressed with the help of the Tacoma Police Department, and temporary fencing was erected. The demolition work was contracted to Dickson Company, selected by Pierce County through a competitive bid process.

Those interested in receiving demolition updates should visit Pierce County's project [web page](#) to sign up for notifications via text or email.

## Upcoming Meetings

### Policy Board

June 28  
9 a.m.  
Lakewood City Hall  
6000 Main St SW  
Lakewood WA 98499

### Operations Board

July 14  
9:30 a.m.  
WPFR Station 20  
10928 Pacific Hwy SW  
Lakewood WA 98499

Meeting agendas and meeting minutes are available at [www.southsound911.org](http://www.southsound911.org)

## Policy Board

Joe Lonergan  
City of Tacoma Councilmember

Tim Curtis  
City of Fife Councilmember

Mike Brandstetter  
City of Lakewood Councilmember

Bruce Dammeier  
Pierce County Executive

Julie Door  
City of Puyallup Councilmember

Dave Enslow  
City of Sumner Mayor

Grant Erb  
West Pierce Fire & Rescue  
Commissioner

Paul Pastor  
Pierce County Sheriff

Doug Richardson  
Pierce County Councilmember

Robert Thoms  
City of Tacoma Councilmember

## Operations Board

Jim Sharp  
West Pierce Fire & Rescue Chief

Peter Fisher  
Fife Police Chief

Bud Backer  
East Pierce Fire & Rescue Chief

John Burgess  
Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One Chief

Kelly Busey  
Gig Harbor Police Chief

Nick Hausner  
Pierce County Sheriff Operations Chief

Bryan Jeter  
Puyallup Police Chief

Tony Judd  
Graham Fire & Rescue Deputy Chief

Cliff McCollum  
Browns Point-Dash Point Fire Chief

Brad Moericke  
Sumner Police Chief

Faith Mueller  
Tacoma Fire Deputy Chief

Dan Olson  
Central Pierce Fire & Rescue Chief

Ron Schaub  
Pierce Transit Chief

Ed Wade  
Tacoma Police Asst. Chief

Mike Zaro  
Lakewood Police Chief

## Executive Director

Andrew E. Neiditz  
South Sound 911

South Sound 911  
955 Tacoma Ave. S., Ste. 102  
Tacoma, WA 98402

## PSCC continued...

for qualifications (RFQ) was issued on June 7<sup>th</sup>. This is a formal, structured process for selecting qualified professionals to contract for this work. After the RFQ deadline, South Sound 911 will seek Policy Board approval to award an architectural contract.

Unfortunately, this does not mean we will have floor plans or a rendering to show by the end of the year. Early estimates figure 12-15 months for this phase. It seems like a long time, but there is a lot of behind-the-scenes work to complete.

### *What happened to the previously selected development team?*

Trammell Crow Company was selected through Pierce County's RFQ (and RFP) process. Since South Sound 911 is an interlocal agency rather than a county or city, the agency could not use the 63-20 public/

private partnership funding and project delivery model without the backing of a county or city. Pierce County stepped in to act on South Sound 911's behalf, so any contract with the development team was between the development team and the county and contracts needed to pass review by all three entities, including South Sound 911. This meant multiple departments were involved on each side, including legal, finance, and facilities management. Unfortunately, an agreement was never reached with Trammell Crow Company.

South Sound 911 Executive Director Andrew Neiditz decided it was in South Sound 911's best interest to proceed with the PSCC using the design/bid/build process traditionally used by government agencies. This means that South

Sound 911 will complete each construction phase separately, beginning with design. Once the design is complete, the agency will go to bid for a contractor, and after the bid has been awarded, construction will begin.

"Under the 63-20 process the ownership had to remain with Pierce County," Neiditz wrote. "I personally believe that 'changing course' to design/bid/build allows South Sound 911 more control over the project and the development process."

We may be taking "two steps back," but it is being done so that we may sprint. On our track.

Keep up with PSCC progress by visiting the project page on our website: [www.southsound911.org/pssc](http://www.southsound911.org/pssc). It is updated as new information is available.

## Merger continued...

holistically consolidate law enforcement communications. Over the next several months, South Sound 911 will work with the 19 local law enforcement agencies to streamline call handling and dispatch policies and procedures.

The move also further unifies South Sound 911 and will improve operational efficiency.

"We could have waited to consolidate when we move into the new building," Law Enforcement Deputy Director Mark Mears said. "But, that would mean waiting a few more years. Why wait when we can begin realizing efficiencies this year?"

With the former Eastside Communications Center vacant, South Sound 911 was able to upgrade

the facility for its Fire Communications Center. The facility in Puyallup offered more space and allowed it to remain as a backup for Law Enforcement Communications.

South Sound 911 Fire Communications began operating out of the Puyallup facility on June 13<sup>th</sup>, after 34 memorable years in Lakewood with West Pierce Fire & Rescue.