

# LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



DOUGLAS L. BARRY  
FIRE CHIEF

April 28, 2008

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
FILE NO. 08-066

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: Douglas L. Barry, Fire Chief *DLB*

SUBJECT: IN-KIND DONATION OF 14 PORTABLE TOM TOM GPS NAVIGATION  
DEVICES

FINAL ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Received & Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

**Recommendations:** That the Board:

Accept an in-kind donation of fourteen (14) Portable Tom Tom One XL GPS Navigation Devices valued at approximately \$3,800, for distribution to 14 Battalions within the City:

**Summary.**

This request is made in accordance with Article 12, Section 5.111.4 of the Administrative Code, which gives the Board of Fire Commissioners authority to accept in-kind donations to the Fire Department valued under \$5,000.

Recently, the Brentwood 90049 Adopt-a-Fire Station Homeowner's Group received an anonymous donation for the purchase of 14 GPS Units to be distributed within the LAFD. The Bureau of Emergency Services determined the criteria for distribution of these units, based on several factors including the size of the district served, and the likeliness of being deployed on a strike team. Based on this criteria, the following battalions were selected to receive the GPS Units: Battalions 2, 3, 5, 7 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17 & 18

**Conclusion:**

The Brentwood 90049 Adopt-a-Fire Station Homeowners Group has been very active in their community and has been very supportive of all of the fire stations in Battalion 9. This in-kind donation provides the Department with yet another tool to better serve the citizens of this City.

Board report prepared by: Blanca E. Perez, Sr. Management Analyst I, Community Liaison Office.

Attachment: Letter from Battalion 9

# LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



08 MAR 19 AM 9:47

DOUGLAS L. BARRY  
FIRE CHIEF  
BUREAU OF  
EMERGENCY SERVICES

APPROVED

MAR 27 2008

ASSISTANT BUREAU COMMANDER  
BUREAU OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

March 3, 2008

TO: Mario D. Rueda, Commander, Bureau of Emergency Services  
THROUGH CHANNELS

FROM: Daryl C. Arbuthnott, Battalion Chief, Battalion 9, "A" Platoon

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO DISTRIBUTE THE DONATION OF FOURTEEN  
(14) PORTABLE TOM TOM GPS NAVIGATION DEVICES

*Handwritten:*  
BIC Arbuthnott to  
coordinate distribution  
will not be replaced if broken,  
lost or stolen. One  
time issue!

14 "C"


## Summary

On March 3, 2008, the Department received an in-kind donation of fourteen (14) portable Tom Tom GPS navigation devices. These devices were purchased from funds provided by an anonymous donor. The execution of the purchase was completed at Best Buy in Westwood by Mark Jacoby, Brentwood 90049 Adopt-A-Fire Station Homeowner's Group. Battalion 9 recently purchased and tested their own unit which has proven to be effective as it meets the specific needs of the battalion.

Unfortunately, this donation only allows the purchase of 14 units limiting the complete distribution of the units to each chief officer suburban. Therefore, the below distribution plan is recommended for these GPS units.

## Recommendation

It is recommended that the fourteen Tom Tom GPS navigation units be distributed to every Division Suburban and to all Battalion Suburbans except for; Battalion 1, 4, 6, 9 and 13.

COMPANY/STATION OR UNIT COMMANDER	ASSIGN.	DIVISION COMMANDER		ASSIGN.
		 3-10-08 D-1		
BATTALION OR SECTION COMMANDER	ASSIGN.	BUREAU COMMANDER	OPERATIONS	

### Discussion

Various districts throughout the LAFD face extreme challenges in locating streets addresses. Those districts with brush present additional challenges. Today's technology has made the use and purchase of GPS Navigation Devices simple and affordable. These devices have a multitude of uses like providing map coordinances, voice directions, up-to-date traffic readings, etc. The devices are portable, used on-board chargers and the mapping system can be updated through downloaded software.

An F-225 was submitted to your office on May 11, 2007, requesting the purchase of GPS Navigation Devices for battalions and divisions. The concept was for Kaiser Hospital funds be used for the purchase of these units and the distribution would be expanded to encompass rescue ambulances and staff vehicles.

Recently, an anonymous donor sought to purchase some of these GPS devices for the LAFD. After brief talks with Mr. Mark Jacoby, (who is not the donor) and a members of the Brentwood 90049 Homeowner's Association, the decision was made to purchase the fourteen GPS devices.

The initial distribution of these units to battalion and division chief officer's suburbans is believed to be ideal plan as they have the largest districts and these units are excellent for strike team deployments. These units also have the capability of being used outside of the vehicle.

After careful consideration regarding the distribution of the devices, the following distribution plan was considered:

- It is unlikely for Battalions 4 and 6 to be deployed on strike teams, therefore they were eliminated from this distribution.
- Because Battalions 1, and 13's districts are very basic and although they are considered for brush fire deployments, normal used of the unit would be minimal if not unnecessary, their distribution was deemed to be less critical.
- Battalion 9 was eliminated because they recently purchased their own GPS device and therefore, do not have a need to receive a new device.
- All Division III Battalions have the potential highest need of these devices therefore, all command teams in the SFV should receive these devices.

GPS Donation Acceptance  
Mario D. Rueda, Commander, BES  
March 3, 2008  
Page 3

Management Information Systems Division has been contacted for the installation of the software associated with these devices. They have agreed to distribute these devices as they install the software.

Consideration

The acceptance of these Tom Tom GPS Navigation Devices will have an immediate affect on the LAFD's command teams, especially during strike team deployments. By eliminating the process of looking up map pages and searching for unfamiliar street names, the chief officer can truly be a second set of eyes for the driver. These devices are a benefit all the way around.

It would be greatly appreciated if your approval could occur expeditiously as the device software CDs need to be downloaded to the designated Battalion/Division office computers.



Daryl C. Arbuthnott, Battalion Chief  
Battalion 9, "A" Platoon