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Emergency	9-1-1
Non-Emergency	708-449-6133
Administration	708-449-8851
Detective/Juvenile	708-449-8850
Records	708-202-4322

POLICE DEPARTMENT
VILLAGE OF HILLSIDE

425 North Hillside Avenue
Hillside, Illinois 60162-1215

Date: June 27, 2025
To: DuPage County ETSB
From: Joseph Beckwith
Director, South West Cook County ETSB
Subject: Request for access to DuPage County Radio Channels

On behalf of the Hillside Police Department / South West Cook County ETSB, I am formally requesting access to the encrypted talk groups utilized by DuPage County's dispatch centers, DU-COMM and ACDC, under the oversight of the DuPage County Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB). As the hub of the western suburbs, Hillside is strategically positioned at the intersection of major expressways I-290, I-294, and I-88, making it a critical point of convergence. This unique location is frequently exploited by criminals who use these expressways as escape routes after committing crimes in neighboring DuPage County. Granting Hillside access to the talk groups indicated in the accompanying spreadsheet would enable our officers to monitor events in real-time, providing them with the situational awareness necessary to prepare for and respond effectively to incidents that may cross jurisdictional lines. This enhanced communication capability would significantly bolster public safety in the community we serve.

Members of the Hillside Police Department routinely collaborate with DuPage County agencies on joint operations, including vehicular hijacking missions. While patched interoperability talk groups currently facilitate these efforts to an extent, access to the encrypted talk groups used by DU-COMM and ACDC would offer a distinct operational advantage. These encrypted talk groups provide a higher level of security and clarity, essential for coordinating complex, multi-agency responses. Such access would ensure secure and immediate communication, empowering our personnel to make better-informed decisions and respond more effectively to dynamic situations, ultimately leading to more efficient and successful outcomes.

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It is also worth mentioning that Hillside has maintained access to several DuPage encrypted talk groups since 2021 through an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement. Members of our department have effectively utilized these talk groups to monitor incidents entering our jurisdiction; however, they are not used on a daily basis. Over this period, there have been no reported issues or breaches of protocol, underscoring our department's proven ability to manage sensitive communications responsibly. This established track record should instill confidence that expanding our access would be handled with the same professionalism and integrity.

Finally, the value of enhanced mutual aid and communication capabilities cannot be overstated in today's interconnected law enforcement landscape. Real-time information sharing across jurisdictions improves situational awareness, enabling personnel to reach better conclusions regarding resource allocation and tactical responses. The formation of DU-COMM, spurred by a tragic incident in 1972 involving a Hillside officer, exemplifies how centralized and secure communication systems can prevent and mitigate emergencies. By granting Hillside access to these encrypted talk groups, we can deepen our partnership with DuPage County, strengthening our collective ability to protect and serve our communities more effectively.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joseph Beckwith
Director, South West Cook County ETSB