

HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF

Dispatch Staff and Technical Staff to determine what the best cut-over date would be.

On **September 19th, 2019**, ECF Director Tony Martin sent an email to the UAB announcing the encrypted law main cut-over date that was now planned for Wednesday October, 16th, 2019.

What were some reasons to make the change to encryption?

The three primary justifications that were used to encrypt our radio Law mains were:

- Protecting Personal Information: We frequently need to broadcast sensitive personal information about calls to responding officers. Our citizens likely don't want that information broadcast publicly.
- Protecting Police Operations: In emergency situations, we don't want to share tactical information about how we are responding in case the bad actors are monitoring transmissions.
- Officer Safety: Criminals may use transmissions to avoid police responding to calls.

Examples of the above concerns:

- In 2012, Brooklyn Park has a triple homicide in their city, while they were actively searching for the suspect, creating a media/press release to provide the public and beginning their investigation; it was discovered that media outlets already had the initial audio out about the specific address within 20 minutes of the initial call going out. Additionally, while SWAT teams were searching yards a resident came out telling the SWAT teams similar to; we've been listening and wondering when you were going to get here.
- In rural Blue Earth County, Media heard officers being dispatched to an incident that started as a domestic and turned into a standoff. The media had the dispatched address, which subsequently led them to looking up who was involved. The subject of the call was incredibly well armed and had fortified his home for the standoff. Call operations were moved to a tactical channel but the media heard the initial dispatch and monitored police activity. During the call, negotiators were repeatedly attempting to contact to the subject but were unable to speak to him because the media was calling the male and conversing with him. The reporter continued to further aggravate the subject's mental state. The call escalated to two officers being shot in the head, with one severely injured. Fortunately, the officers survived but one lost his eye and needed several reconstructive surgeries. It was only after law enforcement was able to contact the reporter's supervisor that they were able to get the reporter to stop calling the subject. The newspaper later refused to provide information to law enforcement about the content of their conversations. Since the subject was deceased there was no criminal prosecution that could be pursued and thus law enforcement could not legally compel the media outlet to release the information they obtained during their conversations.

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