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Chief Joe Dominic

March 8, 2021

California Justice Information Services Division

California Department of Justice

Chief Robert Jonsen

Palo Alto Police Department

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Chief Dominic,

In October 2020, the City of Palo Alto and the Palo Alto Police Department received DOJ letter, 20-09 CJIS, inquiring if agencies were compliant with CJIS security policies and asking for a plan to become compliant concerning not broadcasting PII information over non-encrypted channels. Due to our investment in digital radio infrastructure, on January 5, 2021, the City of Palo Alto and the Palo Alto Police Department moved our digital primary law enforcement radio channel to an encrypted channel to comply with state and federal regulations. This was the department's only feasible timely option and the transition was successful with us coming into compliance.

The City of Palo Alto is requesting guidance on if we can revert our primary law enforcement radio channel back to a non-encrypted channel, while alternative options are explored, to allow for greater transparency with the public. This will result in PII information being broadcast on a non-encrypted channel. The City of Palo Alto would remain on a publicly accessible channel until December 31, 2021, unless a viable alternative has been identified before that date. Any changes in this status would be immediately communicated to DOJ.

We respectfully ask for your guidance and recommendation to this request in writing. Thank you.

Regards,

Chief Robert Jonsen, Palo Alto Police Department

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