Honorable Committee Members… Good morning and thank you for your time.

My name is Rick Wolochatiuk.

I appear before you today representing Harris Corporation on your Agenda Item No. (9), relative to the equipment lease-purchase financing of replacement radios for the Los Angeles Police Department and Los Angeles Fire Department.

Members of this Committee are in receipt of Harris’ letter describing Harris’ concerns with the LAPD and CAO reports submitted to the Committee for this Item.

Although there are several inaccuracies contained in both reports and subsequently cited in our letter, I wanted to emphasize four concerns of great importance to Harris:

1. The LAPD staff report stated (more than once) that the Harris radio “posed an officer safety issue” regarding the radio’s emergency trigger behaviors; behaviors that Harris modified to the Department’s stated satisfaction, prior to the end of the informal evaluation. It should be noted that variances in radio behaviors are not uncommon between radio manufacturers. The Harris radio is a true software-defined radio and can accommodate various field applications, when those applications and behaviors are properly outlined and communicated in a
requirements document. The confusion over emergency behavior could have been avoided with a clearly stated feature and functionality criteria document. To be clear, no such document was ever presented to Harris.

2. The second concern of great importance to Harris relates to the conspicuous absence of a formal process for such a significant procurement. Absent a formal process, the LAPD and the City are left open to an “appearance of impropriety” regarding the chain of custody for vendor pricing outside an official bidding or RFP process.

3. The CAO report states that the radio procurement will allow compliance with a 2020 Federal mandate. This refers to the The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, or Public Law 112-96. The correct date provided in the Act is February 22, 2021, and does not define the date by which LAPD will need to move to new radio spectrum. The 2021 date is the date by which the FCC must engage a rulemaking to establish a timeline for vacating existing spectrum, transition planning /execution and transition Federal funding. Related to the radio procurement, LAPD is also in the process of transitioning its infrastructure to a new spectrum using tax dollars. Doing so prior to the FCC’s rulemaking places the City at risk for losing any Federal funding made available for the transition. I mention this to point out what could possibly be a false sense of urgency to forego a formal RFP process for the radios and what could be a $100M infrastructure upgrade that will come before this committee sometime in the future.

4. The LAPD report states, “The [LAPD] technical team noted that the Motorola Solutions offering provided an advantage when leveraging existing infrastructure
and features already deployed as part of the current radio platform…” Harris
radios were subjected to evaluation against an existing legacy radio system and
Motorola-customized features developed by Motorola over decades of interaction
with the LAPD. Why was little or no consideration given, by LAPD in its
evaluation, regarding future operational needs/requirements for the emerging
network LAPD will be building? Here’s what’s not in the LAPD report nor were
these next-generation ground-breaking technologies “unique to Harris”
considered by the LAPD team:

a. Both radio and cellular LTE (Long-Term Evolution) communications in the
same device; FirstNet, Band 14 LTE
b. The ability to record and store received transmissions in the radio for later
reference (such as an address or directions from Dispatch)
c. The smallest, lightest and loudest radio on the market also seems to have
been ignored
d. Situational Awareness is embedded in the radio (Blue Force tracking)

Harris is requesting that this Committee set aside this Award and Procurement and
return both reports to the Departments, requesting that a proper and objective
evaluation of the radios be engaged through a formal competitive bid process as
described in the City Charter.

Again, thank you for your time.