IVINS CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Ivins City Council

FROM: Chief Jaron Studley, Santa Clara-Ivins Public Safety Department

DATE: July 31, 2025

SUBJECT: Participation Agreement with 911 Cell Phone Bank – Donation and Reuse of Surplus Cell Phones

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends the Ivins City Council approve a participation agreement with 911 Cell Phone Bank, a nonprofit organization that repurposes donated cell phones to provide emergency communication tools to victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.

BACKGROUND

The 911 Cell Phone Bank is a national nonprofit that partners with public safety agencies to collect and repurpose surplus, lost, or unclaimed cell phones. These phones are either securely wiped and redistributed as emergency phones or responsibly recycled if data removal cannot be guaranteed.

Through this partnership, the Santa Clara-Ivins Public Safety Department can support a national safety initiative by donating unclaimed phones from our lost-and-found, evidence/property inventory, or decommissioned department-issued devices.

DISCUSSION

Participation in this program offers several benefits to the City of Ivins and the residents we serve:

Victim Support: The program offers free emergency phones with 60 days of unlimited talk and text, which can be issued to victims of domestic violence or human trafficking through our Victim Advocate program.

Secure Disposal: All donated devices are processed with guaranteed data erasure. If not possible, the phones are responsibly recycled.

No Cost to the City: The nonprofit provides prepaid shipping labels and can even arrange for FedEx pickups at our facility, eliminating any out-of-pocket costs.

Insurance Coverage: Upon signing the agreement, the department will be listed as a named insured on the organization’s $1 million Errors & Omissions liability insurance policy.

In return, the 911 Cell Phone Bank asks for:

Recognition as a community partner on the City’s website.

A social media announcement encouraging community donations.

A press release to local media sharing news of the partnership.

This collaboration supports both public safety and sustainability, while extending our outreach to some of the most vulnerable members of our community. The agreement is non-binding, customizable, and includes no long-term commitment or costs.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the City. Participation is entirely voluntary, with no fees or budgetary requirements.

ALTERNATIVES

Approve the participation agreement with 911 Cell Phone Bank.

Request modifications to the agreement prior to approval.

Decline to participate in the program.

ATTACHMENTS

Draft Participation Agreement – 911 Cell Phone Bank

Organization Overview – 911 Cell Phone Bank

Sample Public Announcement Language

The 911 Cell Phone Bank is proud to be able to provide additional tools to those assisting some of the most vulnerable in our communities. We are able to do that because of generous agencies, like yours, donating older department issued cell phones, or phones from their lost and found, safe-keeping, as well as property departments.

WHAT WE PROVIDE

- We provide shipping labels for any donation you have ready to go. Let us know when you are ready for one and we will email it over to you. This is our preference.
- Guaranteed data erasure. If it cannot be guaranteed it is responsibly recycled.
- Additionally, if you have a Victim Services Unit, we can provide free emergency phones with 60 days of unlimited talk and text for victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. *You said your VA told you about our program. Who is your Victim Advocate?*

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

- We ask that you list us on your website's partner/supporter page and add a link to our page: www.911CellPhoneBank.org.
- Announce our partnership to your community through social media, asking for their support of our program too.
- Submit a press release to local news agencies of our partnership.

READY TO SHIP

When you have phones to send in, simply call or email me and I will email a shipping label over so that it does not cost your company anything. I will even schedule a pickup from FedEx so you don't have to carry it anywhere! You would just let me know what hours they would come between (four-hour minimum) and where they would find the package (front desk, security, loading dock, etc.).

GET IT IN WRITING

I am linking a draft version of our Participation Agreement. If it is something you would need tailored more to your department, just let me know. We are not opposed to modifying it, within reason of course! Having signed a Participation Agreement allows us to list your department as a named insured on our $1 million E&O insurance policy. We have never had to use it but it's nice to know it is there! *Once you are ready to sign we will forward it through DocuSign for digital signatures.* I will just need the names and email addresses of anyone signing it.