

Department of Communication

**ANNUAL REPORT
1974**

**Alfred J. Mello
Director**

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

IN CITY COUNCIL
JUN 24 1975

READ:

WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

Vincent Cianci
CLERK

MAYOR VINCENT A. CIANCI, JR.
ACTING COMMISSIONER OF
PUBLIC SAFETY

ALFRED J. MELLO
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

ALFRED J. MELLO
DIRECTOR



HONORABLE
Vincent A. Cianci
~~RECEIVED FROM~~
COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION
26 KINSLEY AVE., PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

April 7, 1975

The Honorable Vincent A. Cianci
Mayor of Providence
City Hall
Providence, R.I. 02903

Dear Mayor Cianci:

It is an honor for me to submit to you the Annual Report of the activities of this Department in the last year.

This Department will continue as in the past to supply the City with all of its communication needs at the minimum amount of cost to the taxpayer. It is the intent of this Department to keep itself apprised of all of the latest developments, and to apply those developments whenever it is economically possible.

Without elaborating on the various reports from Division Chief's within the Department, you will note that this Department operates in an efficient manner. Many of the divisions are working at full capacity and I am personally proud of the employees for their knowledge and dedication. Telephone charges are constantly monitored. We have also made many changes that will result in cost savings and more efficiency, such as the new switchboard at City Hall.

The people of this City can be proud of the Fire and Police Communication System. Our cable plant is in excellent condition due to yearly replacement. The City does not use any lease telephone lines to perform any of its public safety functions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Alfred J. Mello", is written over a horizontal line.

Alfred J. Mello,
Director of Communications

AJM/kab

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Date: January 3, 1975

From: Alfred J. Mello, Director
To: Honorable Vincent A. Cianci, Jr.
Subject: Communications Department Personnel

Sir:

Total Communications Department Personnel: 64 (as of 1/1/75)

Director	1
Deputy Director	1
Police Control Center (Civ. Operators)	35
Fire Control Center (Civ. Operators)	11
Comm. Dept. Maint. Wire & Cable	10
Comm. Dept. Radio Repair	3
Comm. Dept. Tel. Operators (City Hall)	3

TOTAL: 64

Fire Personnel Attached to this Department:

Chief Dispatcher	1
Fire Alarm Dispatchers (In Charge of Shifts)	5*
Fire Alarm Box Tester	1
Fire Alarm Troubleshooter	2

TOTAL: 9

*Note: 1 man temp. detailed from
Fire Department

Police Personnel Attached to this Department:

Chief Dispatcher	1*
Police Sgts.	2
Police Uniformed Dispatchers	5

TOTAL: 8

*Note: Retired in 1974.

Communications Personnel

Appointments:	Civilian Regulars	7
"	C.E.T.A.	6
Resignations:	Civilian Regulars	16

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Date: January 3, 1975

From: Lawrence Donahue, Deputy
To: Alfred J. Mello, Director
Subject: Fire Alarm Central Office, Master Boxes & Street Boxes
Sir:

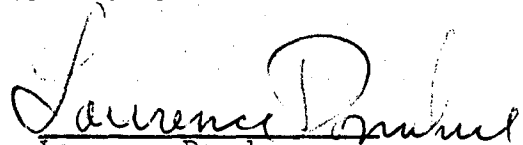
In 1974 I assumed the responsibility of Deputy Director in the Communications Department, City of Providence, relieving William R. McVey who is now a Deputy with the State Fire Marshall's office.

Among other duties of this position I directly supervise the wire and cable maintenance plant and the planning and inspections of Master fire alarm boxes. Alarms are received at fire alarm through the use of street boxes and master boxes. Bell system telephone equipment and private protection companies such as R.I.E.P. The alarms are received over a wire network that consists of 138 miles of overhead wire and 57.3 miles of underground cable.

We are directly responsible for the maintenance and repair and continual inspection of 695 street boxes. The master boxes located in various buildings in the City are also routinely checked on a yearly basis for performance and preventive maintenance. There are 437 Master boxes on our system at the present time. This is an increase of 35 over last year. Over the past few years the Master box count has climbed steadily. There is a national trend in this direction.

This department is directly involved in the layout and final inspection of these units. We work closely with the City Electrical Department to maintain the highest standards in both electrical construction and early warning fire protection. Insurance companies offer substantial reductions in rates for private industry, and buildings such as schools and nursing homes are required by State law to tie directly into the Municipal system using master boxes. Municipalities throughout the Nation are beginning to charge fees for this master box service as it is getting more and more costly and time consuming each year.

Attached is a list of activities of the various segments of this department that comprise the methods of receiving alarms over wire and cable and the installation and maintenance of same.


Lawrence Donahue,
Deputy Director

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Date: January 3, 1975

From: Lawrence Donahue, Deputy Director


To: Alfred J. Mello, Director

Subject:

Sir:

Fire Alarm Boxes	(City)	695
Fire Alarm Boxes	(Private)	437
		<hr/>
Total:		1132
Police Boxes		27
City Owned Ducts		4 miles
City Owned Poles		36
Underground Cable		52.45 miles
Aerial Cable		3.38 miles
Radio Cable		1.5 miles
		<hr/>
Total:		57.33 miles
Private Boxes (1973)		402
Private Boxes (1974)		437
		<hr/>
Total Increase		35*

* This number represents the layout and final inspection of new fire alarm systems in private buildings.


Lawrence Donahue,
Deputy Director

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Date: January 3, 1975

From: Eugene Gianfrocco, Chf. Radio Engineer

To: Director

Subject: Radio Division

Sir:

The following equipment is maintained by the Radio Division of the Department of Communications for the Fire Department.

Fire Department

Radio Equipment

2	110 watt base station (Main and Standby)
1	60 watt Intercity base station
3	Remote Consoles
84	Mobile Units
14	Portables
10	Single Chargers HT220 portables
4	Car chargers
7	Fire receivers
1	Time receiver

Other Equipment

1	Master Vocalarm transmitter
13	Vocalarm receivers at stations
13	Vocalarm desks and battery chargers, batteries
3	Intercoms for ladder trucks
1	Telephone system for the fire and police call boxes, stations
1	Radio amp. system for fire headquarters
14	Hand light chargers
48	Electronic Sirens
36	Overhead door motors
1	Standby generator and standby batteries at fire alarm
1	10 Channel tape recorder
1	Status map at control center and lights on consoles
1	Insta-call recorder
	All the consoles with circuits, milliamps, ground reading devices and relays.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Date: January 3, 1975

From: Eugene Gianfrocco, Chf. Radio Engineer
To: Alfred J. Mello, Director
Subject: Radio Division
Sir:

The following is equipment maintained by the Radio Division of the Department of Communications for the Communications Department.

Radio Equipment:

1	Encoder
9	Pages & Chargers
1	HT 200 Single Charger
1	HT220 " "
2	Portables
13	Mobiles

Other Equipment:

12	Electronic Sirens
2	Overhead Door motors
4	All test equipment used by Communications Department

The following is equipment maintained by the Radio Division of the Department of Communications for the Public Works Department:

58	Mobiles
1	Base Station
4	Remotes at locations

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Date: January 3, 1975

From: Eugene Gianfrocco, Chf. Radio Engineer

To: Alfred J. Mello, Director

Subject: Radio Division

Sir:

The Radio Division is responsible for the maintenance and repair of over 750 units within the Department of Communications for the City of Providence. We are able to do this amount of work through the use of modern test equipment and reliable vehicles used in acquiring parts and getting to jobs as quickly as possible.

This department is required by federal law to check the transmitter frequencies of all radios in the department at least once a year. This duty was greatly facilitated by the purchase of another frequency check which will allow us to do our routine repair work more efficiently while we are involved in the required checks. The Radio Division is manned by three persons. Two F.C.C. licensed technicians and one helper who is studying for his F.C.C. license on his own time. We are continuously updating our knowledge and skills by attending local schools and by the study of manuals and training aids.

Under your vigorous leadership the City of Providence will continue to grow in the Communication field and we feel that this Department will be prepared for any innovations or advances in the state of the art in the rapidly changing communications field.

The following is a breakdown of equipment repaired in 1974 for all departments.

676	Mobiles
156	Electronic Sirens
520	Portables
100	Overhead doors and controls
12	Vocalarm desk troubles

Eugene Gianfrocco
Eugene Gianfrocco,
Chief Radio Engineer

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Date: January 3, 1975

From: Eugene Gianfrocco, Chf. Radio Engineer
To: Alfred J. Mello, Director
Subject: Radio Division
Sir:

The following equipment is maintained by the radio division of the Department of Communications for the Police Department:

Police Department

Radio Equipment

110	Mobiles
126	Portables
5	110 Watt Base stations also repeaters
1	Comparitor
1	110 Watt Intercity Base Station
2	Satellite Receivers
1	Standby base station
1	Police to fire base station
3	Communications consoles
8	Bearcat 3 police receivers
14	Multiple unit battery chargers for HT220 portables.
12	Single unit battery chargers for HT220 portables.

Other Equipment

1	Master vocalarm transmitter and receiver
4	Station vocalarms
1	Conveyer belt at Control Center
1	20 Channel recorder
1	Play back recorder
1	Station intercom
1	Status map in Control Center
1	Status map in Chief's Office
1	Close circuit T.V. at Control Center
1	Standby generator in cellar
34	Electronic Sirens

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Date: January 3, 1975

From: Leo R. Jenkins, Chief Dispatcher
To: Alfred J. Mello, Director of Communications
Subject: 1974 Annual Report for the Bureau of Operations and Control
Sir:

The principal duty of the Bureau of Operations and Control is the accurate interpretation of all emergency alarms and the transmission of same to the proper apparatus of the Fire Department.

Attached is a breakdown of all types of alarms transmitted during 1974 compared with 1973.

The total number of alarms transmitted during 1974 has increased. The largest increase being in Box alarms and Rescue calls. For the first time in many years we have had a decrease in Lockouts.

This Office is responsible for the keeping of all records for all alarms transmitted to the Fire Department. We also record all tests by Communications Department personnel, insurance companies, and other authorized agents. This Record keeping requires the services of one man to receive and record all tests.

In November of 1971 Civilian employees were assigned to this Office. The training of these employees is the responsibility of myself and the Lieutenants in Charge of each platoon. The ability of members has increased considerably.

In closing I wish to thank you, Mr. Mello, for myself and on behalf of the B.O.C. for your leadership and confidence in us. I personally want to thank the members of this Office for having handled all alarms in a most expeditious manner, many times under adverse conditions, also for their continued dedication to their work particularly during major emergencies.

Respectfully submitted,

Leo R. Jenkins
Leo R. Jenkins,
Chief Dispatcher

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Date: January 3, 1975

From: Leo R. Jenkins, Chief Dispatcher
To: Alfred J. Mello, Director of Communications
Subject: The following is a breakdown of Alarms for the years
1973 and 1974.
Sir:

	<u>1974</u>	<u>1973</u>
Box	11,075	9,127
Still Box (Tel. Building Fires)	1,495	1,039
Stills (Tel. Auto, Grass, etc.)	4,732	6,083
R.I.E.P.	66	57
Rescues	12,013	10,582
Emergencies	557	544
Lockouts	502	649
Total:	<u>30,440</u>	<u>28,083</u>

Leo R. Jenkins

Leo R. Jenkins,
Chief Dispatcher

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

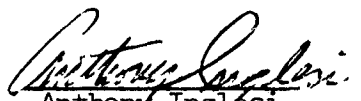
Date: January 3, 1975

From: Foreman Inglesi
To: Alfred J. Mello, Director
Subject: Cable Plant Maintenance
Sir:

The maintenance and repair of underground cable is the responsibility of this division. The City of Providence through your initiative and urging is in a unique position compared to most older cities. It can boast of one of the most updated cable plants in the Nation. One that will give the City of Providence many more years of uninterrupted service.

This division operates with the use of two (2) men and one (1) foreman. The cable crew on a year round basis is continually checking strategic points around the City where cable exists to increase their efficiency under emergency conditions.

Through the use of modern equipment and the continual maintenance and training in this division we hope to retain our excellent status as a modern reliable cable plant.


Anthony Inglesi,
Foreman

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Date: January 3, 1975

From: Foreman Inglesi
To: Alfred J. Mello, Director
Subject: Cable Maintenance
Sir:

Ran wire for new Master Boxes.	14,893'
Replaced old cable	3,377'
Opened and respliced cable.	66 Splices
Checked and renewed cable counts.	38 Heads
Troubleshooting for grounds and opens.	27 Circuits.

The Division also installed:

16	New ACO Pedestals
4	Providence Fire Pedestals
2	ACO Cable Pedestals
270'	Ground wires for ground return system.

Responded to:

Emergency open circuits repaired	-----	33
Fire Alarm boxes knocked down	-----	13

Repaired and painted Fire Alarm Boxes:	124
Repaired and painted Old Fire Alarm Pedestals	21

All underground construction work, digging of streets, installing of electric light poles at Roger Williams Park, redevelopment work at Westminister, Greene, N. Main Street, Randall Square, Oriental Square, Charles Street was supervised by the cable crew.

The cable count for the outside plant was checked completely for tickets and changes.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Date: January 3, 1975

From: Foreman Grimshaw
To: Alfred J. Mello, Director
Subject: Linework
Sir:

This division functions with the use of one (1) Foreman and four (4) men. We are responsible for the maintenance and repair of over 138 miles of the most modern overhead wiring plant in the nation.

Through your initiative our work in recent years has been greatly enhanced by the purchase of a bucket truck. The truck beyond being an obvious helpful tool in our work also allows me to split and work load, assigning the bucket truck to construction type jobs and freeing another truck and crew to do routine maintenance such as trimming and minor repair. We are continually striving to familiarize ourselves with the wiring plant and use various multi-purpose methods of doing this. The continual year round job of trimming tree branches from around our circuits is one such method. We clear our circuits and walk them at the same time, continually updating our knowledge of how the circuits run. This greatly facilitates the finding and re-pairing of open circuits, an emergency condition for this department.

William Grimshaw
William Grimshaw,
Foreman

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Date: January 3, 1975

From: Foreman Grimshaw
To: Alfred J. Mello, Director
Subject: Line Division (Activities)

Sir:

The line crew in 1974 completed trimming and servicing all Aerial circuits from the 19th to the 49 box circuit. The Narragansett Electric Company changed the distribution to 12,470 volts on two of our circuits. We reconstructed the 36 and 37 box circuits to remedy the potential hazard to the Fire Alarm system in its former proximity to this high voltage.

Emergency Open Circuits	14
Traced and repaired grounds on Aerial Circuits	22
Moved overhead lines for house moving jobs	7
Aerial construction for Master Box installations.	11
Changeovers and transfers for Narragansett and New Eng. Tel. Poles	163
New Construction for Master Boxes and street boxes due to road const.	46
Installed Fire I.D. bands	18

This Division ran wire for the installation of the Department telephones for the Deputy Director, Asst. Chief of the Fire Department and the Fire Department's Chief Aid.

<u>Stock Used in 1974</u>	<u>(Line Dept.)</u>
Cross Arm Braces	51
No. 10 Line Wire	31,965 ft.
No. 10 Police Wire	3,176 ft.
Three Spool Racks	61
Two Spool Racks	68
Single Spool Racks	116
Rack Bolts, 10", 12", 14"	162
Brown Insulators	258
Glass Insulators	162
Police Wire Used	3,176 ft.
Wooden Brackets	251
4 Pin Arms & 2 Pin Arms	37
Lag Screws for Arm & Rack	213
Cable lashing wire	3,200 ft.
1/2" pipe for boxes	460 ft.
3/4" pipe	60 ft.
Box leads in #14 Wire Tw	1,420 ft.
Weather Caps 1/2"	26
Weather Caps 3/4"	6
Fire Box Braces	14
Fire I.D. Bands	19
No. 10 Copper Weld Sleeves	379

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Date: January 3, 1975

From: Rose Brock, Supervisor City Hall Telephone System
To: Alfred J. Mello, Director
Subject:: City Hall Telephone System
Sir:

This division in 1974 handles over 2,000 calls per day or over 500,000 calls a year. This figure is considered low when you account for the tremendous increase in calls at different intervals such as tax collecting periods.

We in this division want to personally thank you for your desires to make our work as efficient and pleasant as possible. Through your direct supervision and foresight the Telephone Company has installed one of the most modern, easily workable switchboards in telephone work. We operate this division with two girls and myself and have first hand knowledge of how this board has improved our efficiency and relieved some of our load. Particularly at peak periods.

We know this division will move forward under your leadership and we are pleased to be a part of this helpful trend.

Rose Brock,
Supervisor

C O M M U N I C A T I O N S D E P A R T M E N T

From: Michael Lizotte

Date: January 3, 1975

To: Alfred J. Mello, Director

Subject: Operations of Light Unit 1

Sir:

The following is a report of operations of Light Unit 1 for the year ending December 31, 1974.

Special Signals.....	5
2nd Alarms.....	4
3rd Alarms.....	0
Details.....	3

The following equipment used at fire:

Truck Lights.....	5
Light Bars..500 Watt.....	20
Light Bars..250 Watt.....	2
Circle D's..500 Watt.....	12
Wire Reels..250 Watt.....	5
Wire Reels..175 Watt.....	5
Wire Reels..150 Watt.....	5
Extention Cords..75'.....	3
Extention Cords..50'.....	2

Equipment issued to Companies at fire which Light Units has on hand.

Hand Light Batteries.....	10
Circle D's bulbs.....	5

*Generators Hours.....68.5 (1974)

In closing, I would like to say that members of the Communications Department have handled all calls in a most expeditious manner, many times under adverse conditions. I thank you and the men of the Communications Department for their continued dedication to duty.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael M. Lizotte
Michael M. Lizotte

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Date: January 3, 1975

From: Sgt. Robert W. Emmett
To: Alfred J. Mello, Director of Communications
Subject: Annual Report

Sir:

Prior to 1970 the Police Control Center, formerly known simply as the Radio Room, was a dingy area with equipment ill fitted to handle the increasing work load or the demand for modern communications in the Police Department.

The physical plant consisted of a one channel radio system, a teletype system, an antiquated police telegraph system and a one number telephone system. A great deal of the work now done by radio required the Police Officer to use the telegraph system or take the situation to the police station. Use of the equipment was not flexible enough to handle the various situations that normally arise in the course of Police work.

In June of 1970 the Fire Alarm Division under your direction and initiative revised and updated the entire Police Communications Center. The City of Providence was one of the first cities in the Nation to apply and successfully complete a modern police radio network under the auspices of L.E.A.A. The Police telegraph system was ripped out and from the skeleton an up-to-date police telephone system was built. An emergency and business telephone system was installed allowing emergency calls to be answered by any of the personnel on duty from any of the 10 emergency telephone call directors. at the same time freeing the business lines for routine business calls.

The present six Channel Radio System now in operation permits three channels for the Uniform Division, one channel for Detectives, one channel for information and one channel for contacting other Police Departments in the area. The system is flexible enough to permit various and instant changes in the system by merely pushing a button at the Control Center and turning dial in the police car. This permits sectioning off the City when the air traffic gets too heavy for one channel to handle. In emergency situations several cars can be assigned to a separate channel to handle an emergency situation without interfering with the normal police work.

Channel (4) an Informational channel permits quick checks for M.V.D., local wants, NCIC, tows, notifications etc., without leaving the car. The value of this channel cannot be measured, the effect of this channel on the men is very apparent to anyone listening. Police Officers no longer are reluctant to check into a situation for fear of getting bogged down unnecessarily by going to a telegraph box or coming to the station for information needed. The results are more and better police work and the public benefits.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Date: January 3, 1975

To: Alfred J. Mello, Director

From: Sgt. Robert Emmet

Subject: Annual Report (Con't.)

Sir:

Direct radio and telephone connections to the Fire Alarm permit increased cooperation between these departments. Use of I.B.M. cards in the system not only keep the dispatchers informed of where cars are and how long they are on assignments, they can be studied later to determine if changes should be made in the deployment of men.

During the past year 13 Civilian employees left the Control Center. A like number was hired to replace them and are being trained in the various phases of work. This is a continuous training program. A training manual was printed and training aids made up.

Our records show on the average we worked with three less employees in 1974 then we did in 1973.

Sgt. Robert Emmet

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Date: January 3, 1975

From: Sgt. Robert W. Emmett
To: Director Alfred J. Mello
Subject: Information for Annual Report
Sir:

The following is a list of radio calls and other pertinent information pertaining to the Police Control Center.

Radio Calls put out with numbers issued (1974)	69,721
Radio calls put out with numbers issued (1973)	71,671
Radio calls put out without numbers issued 1974 (estimated)	104,581
Radio calls put out without numbers issued 1973 (estimated)	107,500
Teletypes sent out 1974	12,384
Teletypes sent out 1973	12,788

An important service of the Control Center is having Channel 4 check Motor Vehicle registrations and licenses as well as N.C.I.C. checks. We have no way of keeping a record of how many checks are made.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Emmett
Sergeant