

# That Was One Bright Idea!

The Employee Suggestion Award Committee and the Safety and Emergency Services department awarded the maximum \$2,500 to Alvin Roach, Network Technician Supervisor in the Radio and Technology Division. His idea saved the County an estimated \$222,732.

The suggestion was entitled "Using NOKIA SAR-A W's and segmenting off 40MB of bandwidth from the County's microwave hop between the Public Safety Complex in Largo and St. Petersburg Police Department. This made it appear as a separate microwave hop and allowed the department to move forward with upgrading SPPD Vesta 911 system."



I spoke to Alvin. Here's what he had to say:

**Congratulations on earning a Bright Idea Award!**

**Your idea involved using existing equipment (a microwave dish already in use and directed to St. Petersburg Police Department) rather than buying a new and very expensive microwave dish. Why was it necessary?**

When our provider has outages or systems go down, we need to have a redundant system in place that switches over in 3 seconds or less, so that active 911 calls are not disconnected. The St. Petersburg Police Department (SPPD) is our partner and backup, and Pinellas County is theirs, for this purpose.

We made this upgrade because SPPD had made a change and we needed to be able to continue being back up for each other.

**What does Radio & Technology do?**

The Radio and Technology Division maintains the network and communications with the fire stations and police. The Regional 911 Division maintains the network for 911.

**How did you get where you are?**

Education and training. I took computer classes in high school, and later college. I am an Air Force veteran. Next month I will have 30 years with Pinellas County.

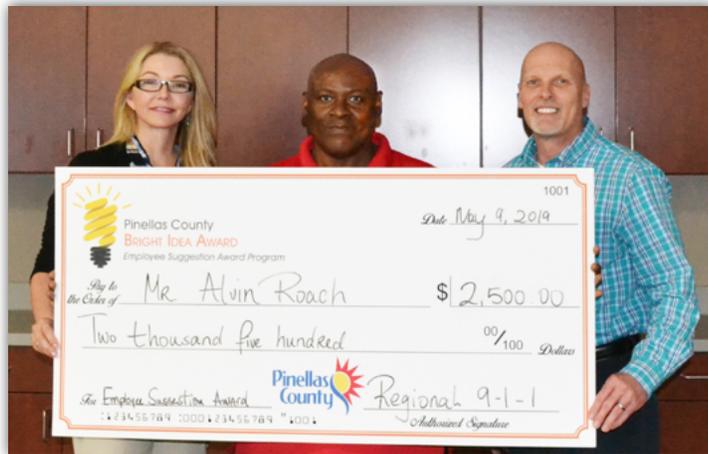
**What are you going to do with the \$2,500 award?**

Just put it in my account for now.

**What would you tell other employees about participating in the Employee Suggestion Award Program?**

We all have great ideas that we have already put into place because we saw a need. You need to let someone know about it to move it forward. We all benefit from these ideas in the end.

[Learn how you can submit your Bright Idea](#) to the Employee Suggestion Award Program.



L-R: Jackie Weinreich, Division Director, Radio and Technology, Alvin Roach, Network Technician Supervisor, Radio and Technology, Safety & Emergency Services, Charles Freeman, Division Director, Regional 911

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