



NEWS RELEASE

From Mayor Dean DePiero

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, January 7, 2010

Contact: Jack P. Marschall
(440) 885-8181 or (216) 346-9935 (cell)

CSU/LEVIN PARMA STUDY SHOWS POSITIVE IMPACT ON REGIONAL DISPATCH PROPOSAL

(PARMA) – A study by the Center for Public Management of the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University shows adopting a consolidated regional emergency dispatch system would result in a collective savings of more than \$1.6 million for area cities.

The City of Parma took the lead role in spearheading the study by the CSU Center for Public Management, funded by a grant from the Ohio Department of Development.

“The results on every level are remarkable when you see the benefits of pooling resources, equipment and manpower,” said Parma Mayor Dean DePiero. “This would go a long way to maintain and, in some cases, raise the quality of emergency services for the entire region while saving taxpayer dollars.”

The study summary states, “Given the proposed investment in high quality equipment, facilities, and staff, the level and quality of service provided by a consolidated dispatch center should exceed those currently being supplied.”

“We were asked by the participating communities to explore whether or not a merged dispatch system could be feasible,” said Kevin O’Brien, Director of the CSU Center for Public Management. “In each case – legal feasibility, equal or lower cost and equal or higher service quality – a collaborative dispatch function surpassed the feasibility test.”

“Intuitively, I suspected that there would be a savings with consolidation,” said CSU Project Manager Daila Shimek. “But I was somewhat surprised what our research showed in terms of the expected impact on quality of service, and that the majority of cost savings came from the capital side rather than from combining staffing.”

(more)

The study goes on to state, “Investment in modern equipment such as an IP-enabled emergency communications network that supports 9-1-1 will facilitate interoperability and system resilience; improve connections between 9-1-1 call centers, provide more robust capacity; and offer flexibility in receiving calls.”

“My hope is to talk soon with our local partners for their reaction and input to the study in order to continue the dialogue on consolidation,” said Mayor DePiero. “That will help determine the direction we need to take for further information gathering and decision making among the fourteen communities involved in the study.”

In addition to Parma, the following municipalities were included in the collaborative feasibility study: the cities of Berea, Brook Park, Brooklyn, Broadview Heights, Brecksville, Garfield Heights, Independence, Middleburg Heights, North Royalton, Parma Heights, and Seven Hills, and the villages of Brooklyn Heights, and Valley View.

The CSU Regional Dispatch Feasibility Study can be viewed in its entirety at:
http://urban.csuohio.edu/publicmanagement/publications/consolidated_dispatch_12_09.pdf.

###