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## City of Dayton Announces Intent to Join Regional Dispatch Center

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Signaling another successful example of regional cooperation, Dayton City Manager Rashad Young is recommending that the City formally agree to participate in the proposed regional dispatch center with Montgomery County and other surrounding jurisdictions. The Dayton City Commission must adopt the recommendation before the decision is final.

Over the past several months, the City of Dayton has been participating in conversations with Montgomery County and other local cities regarding the development and implementation of the proposed joint dispatch center.

“To ensure that a recommendation to participate would be in the best interests of the City and our citizens, staff members have spent considerable time reviewing the potential impacts of the City’s participation,” Young said. “While a few details remain to be resolved, the major issues surrounding this service consolidation have been addressed to the City of Dayton’s satisfaction.”

“Based upon the City Manager’s review and recommendation, I am confident that consolidating Dayton’s dispatching functions with Montgomery County and other regional communities will save Dayton taxpayers money while maintaining fast and reliable emergency response services,” Mayor Rhine McLin said. “This is yet one more example of how we as a region can come together to share services and precious resources.”

“The Montgomery County Commissioners are pleased that the City of Dayton will be joining the regional dispatch center,” Montgomery County Commissioner Judy Dodge said. “Through this example of regional cooperation, we believe that the citizens of Dayton and Montgomery County will receive the highest quality public safety communications services at the most cost effective rate for the taxpayers.”

Some of the major issues which have been negotiated in partnership with Montgomery County include:

**Cost Structure:** The regional policy planning committee has adopted the concept of a single dispatch rate for all participating jurisdictions following the expiration of the County’s guaranteed rate in 2011.

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**Staffing:** The Montgomery County Sherriff's Office has given its assurance to hire existing qualified call-takers and fire dispatchers from the City of Dayton in accordance with a transition plan being jointly developed by staff.

**Training:** Training of fire dispatchers will be jointly performed by City of Dayton Fire personnel and Sheriff's office dispatch training personnel.

**Transition Plan:** A transition plan is being developed to involve on-site participation by Dayton Police and Fire personnel, to coordinate staff training on new call-taking procedures, and to provide temporary connectivity between the City of Dayton's existing dispatch functions and the new regional dispatch center until the transition process is completed.

**Citizen Complaint Process:** Dispatch specific complaints will be handled through the chain of command at the dispatch center, with notification to the community of origin. Complaints about the service or performance of the responding emergency crews will be forwarded to the appropriate community designee.

The regional dispatch center is expected to be operational by late 2008, with the City of Dayton's functions being phased in near the end of 2009 or early in 2010.

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