



## METRO WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT

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### **COUNTY, COMMUNITIES PARTNER TO STRENGTHEN EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

*Leaders vow to provide highest level of public safety*

GENEVA, IL – Leaders from Kane County and its municipalities on Tuesday announced the formation of a countywide special task force to examine the weak spots and disadvantages in the region’s 911-emergency response system with the goal being to assure the highest level of safety for all residents and promote a better understanding of our E-911 system.

Comprised of county, municipal and law enforcement representatives, the task force will work to identify specific improvements such as what should be changed, where the changes should be located and how to bring about the most efficient operation of our 911-emergency response system, now and for the future. A chief concern with the current system is the absence of technology that would allow reciprocal communication among the various emergency groups during a crisis. The current emergency systems used throughout Kane County lack that interoperability, or ability to function together.

“We cannot afford to take chances when it comes to emergency response,” Kane County Board Chairman Karen McConnaughay said. “As it stands, some of our emergency systems cannot communicate with each other, increasing the vulnerability of our residents and first responders. We need to work at establishing common lines of communication by the best means available so as to abolish that vulnerability.”

Oversight of emergency response in Kane County is currently divided among seven emergency dispatch centers: state-mandated entities that plan, coordinate and implement the 911 system. Created and operated independently, these centers have not in the past considered the question of interoperability. In contrast, the task force will study the advantages of coordinated equipment purchases and address compatibility of systems.

As announced Tuesday, the new task force will bring together each of the ETSBs, and representatives from the communities they serve, to improve that coordination – to communicate and work together, and bolster service for Kane County residents.

“Every community, agency and resident in Kane County will be better served by improved communication between our emergency responders,” Batavia Mayor Jeff Schielke said. “By bringing all parties together, we can make our emergency network more efficient and ultimately keep our residents safe.”

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