



Jeffrey B. Spence
Chief of Police

**CITY OF GAHANNA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF POLICE**

COUNCIL REPORT

TO: Mayor Thomas R. Kneeland
Director of Public Safety
Director of Finance
Members of City Council
City Attorney
Clerk of Council

FROM: Jeffrey B. Spence; Chief of Police

DATE: July 30, 2019

SUBJECT: Report to Council – August 12, 2019

ACTION ITEMS FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

ACTION ITEM # 1 – Dispatch Center Resolution in Support

In follow-up to the discussion with Council at the June 24th committee meeting, the Division of Police prepared the attached Resolution in Support (See ATTACHMENT A) of the co-location of police dispatching services with Mifflin Township. Mifflin Township has completed the purchase agreement with the Columbus Metropolitan Library for the library operations facility located at 101 S. Stygler Road.

Since 2009, the Division of Police has partnered with Mifflin Township, MECC, Whitehall, Reynoldsburg, Bexley and New Albany on several emergency dispatching projects to include interoperable radio systems, Computer-Aided Dispatch/Records Management Systems (CAD/RMS) and Next-Generation 9-1-1 technology including the delivery of Text-To-911 capability. By the end of August the Division of Police will complete its transition to fully independent wireless Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP); one of six in Franklin County. Currently, many of the cellular tower locations providing coverage in Gahanna have been redirected to the Division's communications center primarily from the communications centers operated by the Columbus Division of Police and Franklin County Sheriff's Office. With the wireless transition complete and the many infrastructure improvements already in place, the co-location of dispatching services with Mifflin Township in the space recently acquired would uniquely position the City to have an advanced emergency communications facility located on the east side of Franklin County. Given the infrastructure and the interoperability already in place, the co-location of dispatching services

between the City and Township would capitalize on the many investments by both units of government over the last decade.

The co-location of dispatching services was first explored by then Mayor McGregor in 2000. Council authorized the expenditure of funds and the hiring of a consultant to explore an east side communications facility with the City of Reynoldsburg. At the time the plan was very forward-thinking, but we lacked interoperable radio systems, consolidated 9-1-1 technology and much of the infrastructure to make the plan work. The co-location of the MECC and the Division of Police will not encounter the obstacles in technology that made the effort in 2000 unworkable as these problems have been solved. In addition, the blueprint for a successful center has already been written with the Northeast Regional Emergency Communications Center (NRECC) in Dublin which services Dublin, Washington Township, Norwich Township, Upper Arlington, Hilliard and soon, Worthington. The same capabilities and services can be replicated and improved upon with the partnership between the City and Township.

We believe that the City's investment for the co-location of services in 2020 will not exceed \$500,000 which the Division included in the recently published 2020 Capital Needs Assessment which has subsequently been provided to Council. We would ask that Council respectfully consider passage of this non-binding Resolution in support of the co-location of dispatching services in order for programming work to begin between Mifflin Township and the Division of Police.

Requested Legislation and Funding

- Legislation Needed: Resolution
- Emergency/Waiver: NA
- Name & Address: NA
- Already Appropriated (Amounts & Accounts Names/Titles): NA
- Supplemental/Transfer (Amounts & Account Names/Titles): NA

Attachments

- ATTACHMENT A – RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT PDF
- ATTACHMENT B – 2019 2ND QUARTER GOALS AND OBJECTIVES PDF

UPDATES

Mid-year Goals, Objectives and Planning Initiatives

As we move into the 2020 budget cycle, the Division of Police will be evaluating its long-term needs and aligning the budget request with its 2019 Goals and Objectives, Comprehensive Training Plan and the recently completed strategic business plan.

A mid-year summary of the Division's 2019 Goals and Objectives are attached – See ATTACHMENT B.