



## NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Valerie Lough

P: 937-324-7300

E: [vlough@springfielddohio.gov](mailto:vlough@springfielddohio.gov)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Springfield Officials Issue Statement on 911 Consolidation

SPRINGFIELD, OH (Oct. 25, 2019) —Springfield City Manager Bryan Heck has issued the following statement regarding the consolidation of City and County 911 services:

“Public safety and 911 dispatch are the most critical services that the public relies on us to provide. We work diligently every day to improve the level of service and support all of our partners in meeting the needs of those in our community who need immediate assistance.

In recent years, we have explored the possibility of merging our 911 system with that of Clark County with a goal of improving service to the community. We took a careful, thorough look at the options available to us with a mission to develop an integrated system between City and County public safety officials. Earlier this year, the City took steps to upgrade the 911 phone system and radio consoles as well as public safety radios, a technology that currently supports communication within Clark County and beyond.

After working collaboratively, examining best practices, and closely examining the data and receiving input from City of Springfield public safety divisions, the City has unfortunately not been able to reach an agreement on the terms of consolidation of the 911 dispatch services. The proposal from the county terminates the City’s oversight of the system, potentially compromising the quality of emergency services to the community, while also eliminating the City’s ability to manage City tax payer dollars that fund dispatch operations. Merging our 911 system with Clark County would have had a negative impact on current City dispatch personnel who are vital to the success of our emergency operations. Remaining separate will also allow us to support each other as a backup if there is a system failure in either center.

The safety and protection of our community is paramount in our decision to maintain individual operations. We are grateful to the men and women in our public safety divisions who serve our community with dedication and distinction around the clock. We will continue to provide mutual support to our systems and use our partnerships to further the interests of the neighbors, friends and families in our community that we are so humbled to serve. The City will continue to work toward a shared records system with the County, allowing data to be more accessible by public safety units as well as the community. The City will continue to discuss ways to combine and consolidate other services with the County to provide the most effective service delivery to our community.”