

911 Update

- We have been working closely with ITS to upgrade all dispatch work stations in the department which should be completed next week
- With the help of Commissioner Schulte, DPW and ITS we are working on improving security at the airport, particularly gated access the 911 Center and other critical infrastructure.
- Our Department received notice of award from DHSES for the Statewide Interoperable Communications Grant Program and the Public Safety Answering Point grant program totaling \$793,408. Approximately \$500,000 of that is used for support and maintenance contracts of our countywide radio system. Approximately \$150,000 goes toward dispatchers' salaries, and the balance is used to build new sites and other communications improvements.
- I participated in the WSUL Heart-a-thon along with other colleagues to host the 11am public safety hour. It was an awesome event for a great cause.
- Environmental review continues for the Jeffersonville tower and progress is underway.
- As always I commend my staff on the amazing work they do each and every day, being our true first first-responders.

EMS Update

- The reorganization of the EMS Council continues. They are meeting monthly and working to support EMS initiatives,
- We are seeing an increased need for EMS mutual aid in the center of the county in the areas covered by Empress EMS. In the month of January 14% or 104 of those calls required a volunteer squad from another area to be dispatched to handle those calls. That is up from 12% cumulatively from 2024. It is becoming more difficult for those mutual aid departments to sustain that type of assistance and still cover their own districts. I've met with leadership from Empress EMS to discuss the concern and I will continue to drive the need for improvement. While the County Fly cars are no doubt reducing the time to get a provider bedside and providing much needed care, the times to get a transporting ambulance assigned to the call are increasing with mutual aid fatigue,
- I'm happy to report that we have been awarded a first ever \$500,000 grant from NYS DOH. This award will go toward bolstering EMS Education, Recruitment & Retention initiatives, aiming to standardize the level of care across EMS agencies, and adding additional EMS resources during our peak summer season.