

## Communication to Madison Common Council

Submitted to Madison City Clerk on January 22, 2009

During my service on the Madison Common Council, Mayor Cieslewicz initiated a program with surrounding communities, beginning a priority dispatch system for improved responses to requests for emergency medical services, directing the closest available unit to the emergency, regardless of municipal boundaries.

When Advanced Life Support was announced at Madison Fire Station #7 on May 6, 2004, I was concerned that this program would exploit Madison property taxpayers, in effect subsidizing surrounding municipalities for their provision of advanced life support services with Madison EMTs.

With approximately five years of experience for this approach to serving our respective communities, I expect that we have ample data to determine how well this method of assigning city resources has served Madison's property tax payers, those who pay the capital and operating costs for our Madison Fire Department.

Seven weeks ago, I requested an accounting of our costs incurred in the program since its inception, broken down by year, showing:

- the number of calls and the costs of the services Madison received from other municipalities, and
- the number of calls and costs of services Madison provided to others, each broken down by municipality. Unfortunately, I have not received the requested data that one would expect to be compiled by our Fire Department, the provider of this service.

While I strongly endorse the concept of intergovernmental cooperation, I even more strongly believe that such efforts must be revenue neutral. To expect Madison taxpayers to subsidize the services provided in surrounding communities OR to suppress data that would illustrate the results of the Advanced Life Support program would quite simply be beyond outrageous. I believe that it's incumbent on our city government to report the economic results of this now mature program.

I submit this communication to our City Clerk for placement on the next Common Council agenda with the lead referral agency being the Public Safety Review Board, requesting a complete response no later than May 6, 2009, the fifth anniversary of our priority dispatch system for Advanced Life Support service.

Thanks,



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