

NWCDS

Northwest Central Dispatch System

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EMERGENCY POLICE & FIRE DISPATCH SERVING

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS–BUFFALO GROVE–ELK GROVE VILLAGE–HOFFMAN ESTATES–INVERNESS–MOUNT PROSPECT–PALATINE–PROSPECT HEIGHTS–ROLLING MEADOWS–SCHAUMBURG–STREAMWOOD

Northwest Central Dispatch Receives Strike Threat From Union Representing Dispatchers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 29, 2011

Arlington Heights, IL – The Northwest Central Dispatch System (NWCDS), which handles emergency 9-1-1 calls from residents in 11 northwestern suburbs, said today that it has received a strike notice from the Metropolitan Alliance of Police (MAP), which represents NWCDS' 70 dispatchers on collective bargaining matters.

By law, unions must provide a 5-day notice to employers prior to going on strike. The notice does not guarantee that a strike will occur; it merely communicates a union's intent to potentially walk out.

NWCDS officials said it has made significant progress with MAP on multiple issues, but a number of economic issues have yet to be resolved. NWCDS will continue to negotiate in good faith toward an agreement but is also taking precautionary measures to ensure continuity of service in the event employees do walk out.

“Our message to the half a million residents we serve is simple. When our residents dial 9-1-1 they do so with the expectation that they will receive the help and attention they deserve. That will continue, uninterrupted regardless of any action taken by the union that represents 70 of our dispatchers,” said Ken Fritz, NWCDS Board of Directors Chairman and Schaumburg Village Manager. “Strike or no strike, our number one priority is delivering top quality service to the nearly half a million Northwest suburban residents we serve.”

NWCDS said it is ready to implement an emergency staffing back up plan should its employees go on strike. The plan includes drawing on several resources to ensure that 9-1-1 consoles at the agency's Arlington Heights facility are fully staffed around the clock, seven days a week.

“It is also our goal to continue negotiations with the union toward an agreement that is fair to our employees and to taxpayers,” said Fritz. “First and foremost, we are seeking a contract with our hard working employees that enables the Northwest Central Dispatch System to deliver the best possible service to residents at the most reasonable cost.”

About the Northwest Central Dispatch System

Northwest Central Dispatch System is a cooperative venture voluntarily established by its members to operate and maintain a joint police, fire and other emergency communications system for the mutual benefit of the members.

NWCDS has steadily grown since 1972 as additional municipalities discover the high level of professional services offered along with the significant cost savings gained through regional consolidation as well as the benefit of pooling resources to be able to implement state of the art emergency communication technologies.

The System serves 486,182 citizens that reside in Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Elk Grove Village, Hoffman Estates, Inverness, Mount Prospect, Palatine, Prospect Heights, Rolling Meadows, Schaumburg, and Streamwood.

NWCDS answers about 274,000 emergency telephone calls per year and dispatches about 222,000 police calls and 52,000 fire/EMS calls. The authorized staffing levels are 71 telecommunicators, 2 Alarm Operators, 7 Operations Managers, and 12 Administrative staff.

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