



Office of the Administrator
County of Kent, 300 Monroe Avenue NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503-2206

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAND RAPIDS, KENT COUNTY PARTNER ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING SERVICES

GRAND RAPIDS – We rely on our emergency responders to be prepared at all times. This requires hours of training and collaboration between the various local agencies. Kent County and the City of Grand Rapids have found a way to save money and eliminate redundancy, by merging Emergency Management Planning Services. If the Kent County Board of Commissioners approves the recommendation from its Finance & Physical Resources Committee, starting July 1, a three-year agreement will not only bring expertise and efficiencies together, it will also save taxpayers county-wide thousands of dollars.

Under this contract, the Kent County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will remain located at the Kent County Sheriff Department. The EOC is the coordination center of disaster and emergency response, and exercises will continue to be coordinated through the EOC.

“There has always been a close working relationship between Kent County and the City of Grand Rapids in a variety of endeavors,” said Daryl Delabbio, Kent County Administrator. “Emergency management is no different. We have been active in planning, training, and exercising together and look forward to enhancing that relationship.”

“We saw this as a great opportunity to share valuable resources while saving money,” Grand Rapids City Manager Greg Sundstrom said. “Our employees have been working on operations and exercises with county and other local municipalities for years. This partnership will make us stronger if there ever is a need for large-scale emergency response.”

The City of Grand Rapids will pay the County \$72,500 annually to provide services, and will recognize an estimated savings of more than of \$100,000 in 2012-13. In addition, the County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) and the City’s LEPC will be merged into one committee.

In recommending this agreement to the Board of Commissioners a number of Commissioners on the Finance & Physical Resources Committee expressed their pleasure at seeing another collaborative effort come to fruition. “I know there has been a lot of conversation over the past 12 months,” noted Commissioner Gary Rolls. “This is a great collaborative effort.”

Commissioner Jim Saalfeld, Vice Chair of the Finance & Physical Resources Committee indicated that “This is one more example of how the County and local units can collaborate to save resources and operate more efficiently.”

The Board of Commissioners is expected to act on the recommendation at its meeting Thursday, June 14.

For more information or one-on-one interviews, feel free to contact the following individuals:

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