



**Public Safety Committee**  
October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
Summary and Motions

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CM Diane Lawless called the meeting to order at 1:00pm. All committee members were present.

**1. Approval of Summary**

McChord made a motion to approve the September 11, 2012 meeting summary. Seconded by Farmer. Motion passed without dissent.

**2. E-911 Routing of Non-emergency Calls**

Commissioner Clay Mason came to the podium to introduce David Lucas. He said that all parties involved in the E-911 network would prefer to keep the call system as it is.

Lucas reviewed the call volume data that was provided in the packet. He said that there was a change to the centralized E-911 network as well as an extension of LexCall 311 hours in 2009. When LexCall extended their hours, it alleviated some of the non-emergency calls going to E-911.

Lucas said that although they have decreased their staff over the years, they are still below the national average for call times.

Sean Coleman, with the Lexington Division of Police, came to the podium to discuss staff levels and recruitment. He mentioned overtime and the hiring process. He said that the LFUCG's hiring process was too strict. They worked with Human Resources and changed the testing evaluation. They saw a huge difference when they modified the process. With the new hires, overtime will not be required as often which will help increase employee morale.

CM Lawless asked about seniority and Coleman said that there are quite a few people with over 20 years that are still working in E-911. They have also rehired past employees. CM Lawless asked Coleman if they had implemented programs for emotional support and stress relief. Coleman said that they have reinstated programs that give them exposure to information and training that assists them in their positions. CM Lawless offered to assist with stress relief for E-911 employees. She also asked Coleman to look at the dismissed employees HR records to see why they were terminated.

CM Henson asked Mason if it was necessary to consider routing some of the calls to LexCall. Mason said no. He said that the current system is working.

Henson made a motion to remove E-911 Routing of Non-emergency Calls from the committee. Seconded by Farmer. Motion passed without dissent.

### **3. Tornado Safe Rooms – Hazard Mitigation Assistance**

Pat Dugger began her presentation on the Hazard Mitigation program. In order to be eligible, she said that a municipality must have a hazard mitigation plan in place. The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides grants to State and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration.

Dugger mentioned programs such as Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC), and Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL). She went on to say that there are five minimum criteria for project eligibility.

- Conform with State and Local Hazard Mitigation Plans
- Conform with environmental laws and regulations
- Solve a problem independently and be a long-term solution
- Be cost-effective
- National Flood Insurance Program participant

Dugger said that the biggest issue with the program is the timing and the funding. It took from 2009 to 2012 for the funding to become available. We currently do not have an approved hazard mitigation plan so we are not able to apply for funding. The LFUCG has approved a consultant to assist with the development of a plan and the Division of Emergency Management is working on that plan now.

Dugger said that a key component is that it must be a federally declared disaster. If there is a disaster anywhere in Kentucky, the entire state becomes eligible for the monies. Dugger said that since Kentucky is an “enhanced state,” an additional 5% is available, resulting in 20% of other disaster aid available for mitigation.

Dugger said that the projects require cost-benefit analysis. She stated the following HMGP Regular Program Eligible Activities:

- Acquisition/demolition or relocation of floodprone or landslide prone homes
- Elevation of floodprone homes
- Dry floodproofing of commercial property
- Infrastructure protection measures
- Minor structural flood control projects
- Tornado Safe Rooms
- Utility protection measures
- Soil stabilization

Dugger said that they have a project that has been approved by the state and FEMA to build a Tornado Safe Room at the Versailles Road campus. She is currently waiting on the mitigation plan to be reviewed by the state. They applied for a similar project at the recycling center that was not approved. Dugger noted that FEMA now allows individuals to apply for tornado safe

room funds. The Division of Emergency Management will work with the LFUCG's Grants and Special Projects office to discuss the application process.

Martin asked Dugger about FEMA floodplain remapping. Dugger said that it is a collaboration between FEMA, the Division of Planning, Engineering and Water Quality. Dugger said that they have already started the process and she will provide CM Martin an update. Martin also mentioned the monies for minor flood walls. Palomar has a storm sewer headwall that is above grade. Dugger asked Martin to let her office know about any issues like this and CM Martin mentioned Wolf Run Creek behind Southland Drive.

Farmer asked Dugger about Tornado Safe Rooms and mentioned the Masterson Station/greater Leestown road area. He said that most of those homes do not have basements and the largest reinforced structure near that neighborhood is the prison.

Dugger said that she has a lot of information on her website about reinforcing these types of homes.

Henson asked if the public will be able to use the Versailles Road shelter. Dugger said that they would try to not turn people away. Henson mentioned the elderly and disabled. Henson said that she would like the Division of Emergency Management to start a campaign to let our citizens know what services are available. Dugger said that they do hold bi-annual events at the Senior Citizens Center and she said they also publish information in the Chevy Chaser. Henson urged Dugger to do a media campaign.

Lawless went on to encourage Dugger to reach out to the Veteran's facility.

Beard asked Dugger about the sirens in the LFUCG parks. Dugger said that she will cover this in her October Work Session presentation to the full Council. Beard also asked if the LFUCG received the money that they were owed from the ice storm. Dugger said that she thought there was a small amount that we hadn't received. She said that she would check with Commissioner Jane Driskell.

#### **4. Items Referred to Committee**

Crosbie made a motion to remove Examining the Quarry Ordinance, ROW Signage, Examining the Nuisance Abatement Process, Examining the Nuisance Ordinance to Ensure Appropriate revenue, Emergency Management Long Range Strategic Plan, E-911 Routing of Non-Emergency Calls, Community Corrections: Exploring the receiving of Federal/State Inmates, Electronic Monitoring and Off-Premise Signage. Seconded by Ford. Motion passed 9-1. Farmer voted nay.

Crosbie made a motion to return Examining the Nuisance Abatement Process to the Public Safety committee referral list. Seconded by Henson. Motion passed without dissent.

Martin made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Crosbie. Motion passed without dissent.

*Submitted by Jenifer Benningfield, Council Administrative Specialist*

