

CITIZENS LEAGUE REPORT

No. 53

**City of Minneapolis
Proposal for Fire Department
Central Communications and Dispatch
Office**

January 1956

FIRE

No. 53 (PS) Proposal for a central fire
communication and dispatch office.

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OUTLINE OF POSSIBLE SET-UP FOR CENTRAL FIRE
COMMUNICATIONS AND DISPATCH OFFICE

Location: The Minneapolis Fire Department Communications office in City Hall is the largest facility in the area in terms of equipment, manpower and number of calls. It would be logical to tie into this office and there appears to be a willingness to have such a tie in on the part of the Minneapolis Council and Fire Department. Present space is ample though not very large and plans for new space are under consideration. This office is presently manned by two men round the clock and handles 4000 to 5000 fire calls a year. It has fire alarm, telephone and radio hook ups at present.

Servise: The central office would receive all fire calls made through Minneapolis area switchboards. This would include the following telephone exchanges:

Aldrich	Federal - all numbers	Hyland	Pleasant
Cherry	Franklin " "	Locust	Regent
Colfax	Gibson	Parkway -	Rockwell -
South - all numbers		all numbers	all numbers
West - all numbers		Juniper	Sterling " "
Orchard-" "		Sunset -	Walnut " "
Harrison 1		all numbers	
and can include Greenwood - all numbers		Melrose	
		all numbers	

Some common number to dial like FIRE or 111 may be worked out for easy memorizing.

Similarly anyone dialing 0 for operator would get the central office. On receipt of a call at the office the caller would be asked for name, address, nearest intersection and city or village, plus such other information as can be gotten. The men would be trained to know all streets in the area and particularly duplicate streets to avoid misdispatching.

Immediately upon identification of the location of the fire the call would go by radio and leased telephone line to the fire station or fire and police station of the community where the fire was and if the seriousness seemed to justify it additional stations in adjacent suburbs would be alerted. The sheriff's office and/or proper police department would also be notified.

Where volunteer firemen are used the siren could be activated from the central office or locally. If pyramid calling is used, the initial calls could be made from the central office.

Where the fire equipment is rigged with radio, radio contact would be maintained between central office and the fire so that additional men and equipment could be quickly obtained and other problems worked out.

Central office would maintain fire records including information as to street layout, fire fighting equipment and personnel and plans for their use under all circumstances, reports on all alarms and fires, etc.

- Benefits:** Such a system would
- a) Assure the faster dispatching of men and equipment to fires initially.
 - b) Avoid confusion and mix ups as to where a particular fire is.
 - c) Assure the faster dispatching of supplementary men and equipment.

- d) Improve fire defense planning and record keeping in the area.
- e) Provide an experienced coordinated communications and dispatching set up for use in civil defense or other general emergencies.
- f) Provide a basis for seeking lower suburban fire insurance rates.

Disadvant-

ages: a) Some additional cost would be involved to most communities.

Cost

- Estimates:
- a) A minimum of 1 fire signal operator available around the clock would have to be added to Minneapolis' present communications personnel to handle this additional load. To keep one man on full time requiring 4.7 men because of 40 hour week, vacations, holidays, etc. Figuring 5 men at present salary of \$5800 the manpower cost is the largest item totaling \$29,000.
 - b) Private telephone and radio lines from central office to each fire station would cost \$15 to \$30 per month.
 - c) The appropriate share of cost of heat, furniture, janitor service, etc., of the 1 or 2 rooms involved at Minneapolis.
 - d) The radio console at central office would cost each department about \$350.

Items a, b and c are continuing costs while item d is ^{non-} ~~now~~ recurring.

Division
of
Costs:

There are many ways the costs could be divided and the following are only suggestions:

- a) Each department that has radio would pay about \$350 which represents its cost of the radio console at the central office. This is a non-recurring item and it may be possible to get some federal civil defense funds allocated to cover part of this cost.
- b) Each department would pay the cost of its private telephone and radio lines. These are estimated at \$15 to \$30 per month depending on the distance, or \$180 to \$360 per year.
- c) The cost of personnel, heat, light, furniture, supplies, janitor service, etc., could be spread on the basis of population, assessed value, area, number of calls, etc., or some formula involving several of these. Population or assessed value have been mentioned most.

Population passes a problem because the figures generally are revised only every ten years so that substantial inequities can develop unless it is agreed that annual or biennial estimates will be used.

Assessed values are regularly revised but there is less precision in determining assessed values and communities do seem to vary considerably in the ratio of assessed value to market values. However, the differences in ratios are decreasing and are no longer as great as they have been. Furthermore, fire protection is generally considered to be principally property protection so that assessed value may be the best in that it reflects the comparative worth of what is being protected in each community.

Assuming an annual cost to be apportioned of \$32,000 the two formulae would give about this breakdown:

<u>Gov't Unit</u>	<u>Population 1950</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Share of \$32,000</u>	<u>1954 Assessed Value</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	<u>Share of \$32,000</u>
Anoka	7396	6.4	\$2,048	2,696,272	3.1	\$832
Bloomington	9902	8.6	2,752	8,224,054	9.5	2,640
Brooklyn Center	4284	3.7	1,184	2,207,560	2.6	832
Columbia Heights	8175	7.1	2,272	2,856,272	3.3	1,056
Crystal	5713	5.0	1,600	4,415,111	5.1	1,632
Edina	9744	8.5	2,720	13,725,827	15.9	5,088
Fridley	3796	3.3	1,056	1,844,601	2.1	672
Golden Valley	5551	4.8	1,536	4,831,993	5.6	1,792
Hopkins	7595	6.6	2,112	9,601,259	11.1	3,552
Osseo	1167	1.2	384	628,353	.7	224
Richfield	17502	15.2	4,864	13,032,559	15.1	4,832
Robbinsdale	11289	9.8	3,136	5,192,171	6.0	1,920
St. Louis Park	22644	19.7	6,304	16,905,893	19.6	6,272
	114,758	100%	32,000	86,161,925	100%	\$32,000

(The above are members of the mutual aid association)

Deephaven	1823		1,281,395
Excelsior	1763		972,369
Island Park	1357		446,175
Maple Plain	479		200,082
Long Lake	399		230,190
Mound	2001		853,708
Wayzata	1791		1,711,904
	9673		5,695,825

If these communities joined in it would reduce the proportionate shares of the communities listed in the top group 6 to 8%

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

ANOKA

Fire.....Harrison 1-2900
Police.....Harrison 1-1400

ARDEN HILLS

Fire..Midway 5-1982 or SUNset 4-1794
Police Midway 5-1586 or Midway 6-8384

BLOOMINGTON

Fire.....South 1-8222
Police.....South 1-5825

BROOKLYN CENTER

Fire.....Juniper 3737
Police.....ORchard 5-8841

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

Fire.....SUNset 8-3691
Police SUNset 8-8626-FEderal 2-1361

COON RAPIDS

Fire.....Harrison 1-4466
Police ..(Sheriff)...Harrison 1-1660
Radio Dispatch.....ORchard 5-5816

CRYSTAL VILLAGE

Fire.....ORchard 7-8411
Police.....ORchard 7-8421
For emergency calls ORchard 5-8841

DEEPHAVEN

Fire(Excelsior village depart-
ment).....Greenwood 4-8511
Police.....ORchard 5-8843 or
Greenwood 7-2967

EDINA

Fire.....WAlnut 6-2132
Police.....WAlnut 7-8861

EXCELSIOR (village)

Fire.....Greenwood 4-8511
Police.....ORchard 5-8843

FALCON HEIGHTS

Fire.....Midway 6-5200
Police...Sheriff).....CApital 4-7391

FRIDLEY VILLAGE

Fire..... SUNset 8-3122
Police..... SUNset 8-8656
For emergency calls ORchard 5-8841

GOLDEN VALLEY

Fire.....JUniper 4200
Police.....ORchard 5-8841

HOPKINS

Fire.....WEst 8-8800
Police.....WEst 8-8800

LEXINGTON VILLAGE

Fire.....SUNset 4-1604
Police SUNset 4-1221 or SUNset 4-9975

LONG LAKE

Fire.....Greenwood 3-6600
Police.....Greenwood 3-8751
(If no answer, call ORchard 5-8841)

MINNETONKA BEACH

Fire.....Greenwood 4-8511
(Or dial Wayzata Operator)
Police.....Greenwood 1-8850

MORNINGSIDE

Fire.....FEderal 2-1391
Police.....WAlnut 7-8861
For emergency calls -Sheriff FE 2-2566

MOUND

Fire.....Operator
Police.....Operator or 55

MOUNDS VIEW

Fire SUNset 4-1794 or Midway 5-1982
Police.....Midway 4-2200

NAVARRE

Fire.....Operator dial 0
Police .. (Sheriff) FE 2-2566 or Operator

NEW BRIGHTON

Fire.....Midway 5-2848
Police.....Midway 5-1041

OSSEO

Fire.....Operator
Police.....Operator

RICHFIELD

Fire.....ROckwell 9-4411
Police.....ROckwell 9-4411
For emergency calls FEderal 2-1361

Emergency Numbers (con't)

ROBBINSDALE

Fire.....ORchard 7-4554
Police.....ORchard 7-4554

ROSEVILLE

Fire.....IVanhoe 4-1200
Police.....CApital 2-2566

ST. ANTHONY

Fire.....MIdway 5-1982
Sheriff's office....FEderal 2-2566

ST LOUIS PARK

Fire.....WEst 9-7888
Police.....WEst 9-7888
For emergency calls FEderal 2-1361

SAVAGE

Fire and Ambulance.....South 1-8686
Police.....South 1-8579

SPRING LAKE PARK

Fire.....SUnset 4-1794

WAYZATA

Fire.....Operator (dial 0)
Police.....ORchard 5-8844