



Burlington Fire Department

136 South Winooski Avenue
Burlington, Vermont 05401-8378
(802) 864-4554 • (802) 658-2700 (TTY)

Business Fax (802) 864-5945 • Central Station Fax (802) 865-5387



To: Miro Weinberger, Honorable Mayor
Burlington City Council Members

From: Steven A. Locke, Fire Chief *SL*

RE: Regional Dispatch

Date: November 16, 2017

The Burlington Fire Department supports the proposal to create a regional dispatch entity known as the Chittenden County Public Safety Authority. This proposal follows months of work on a concept that has been discussed for the past 50 years; in fact, two previous studies have determined regional dispatch is a viable and should be considered. Regional dispatch when combined as a public safety answering point can help in the following ways:

- Reduce total response times of emergency responders by avoiding the transfer of the 911 call from the PSAP to the local dispatch center
- Improve cross jurisdictional mutual aid which happens regularly
- Increase minimum staffing levels allowing more dispatchers to resource multiple emergencies in a single community
- Provide dispatchers with more support, training opportunities and advancement prospects within the dispatch field
- Provide dedicated oversight to fire and EMS calls which increases responder safety

I have had the opportunity to work on this project for many months and overwhelmingly support the plan. I look forward to discussing the next steps with you and the Council.



POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF BURLINGTON

TO: Mayor Weinberger
FROM: Chief Brandon del Pozo
DATE: November 14, 2017
SUBJECT: Chittenden County Public Safety Authority

The Burlington Police Department supports the regional dispatch initiative known as the Chittenden County Public Safety Authority.

This will shave 70-80 seconds off Burlington Police and Fire's response to 911 calls by removing the current step of calls being answered and then relayed through current 911 centers, known as "rolldown." Additionally, regional dispatch will allow neighboring departments to better provide mutual aid in critical incidents.

By locating dispatch in one center, challenges with staffing will be reduced. There will be better support and consistent supervision for dispatchers. Dispatchers will also benefit from more professional development and advancement opportunities, which will help address staffing retention.

The Burlington Police Department supports placing the agreement to form the Chittenden County Public Safety Authority on the Burlington Town Meeting Ballot and recommends its approval by Burlington Voters.

Brandon del Pozo
Chief of Police



**PO BOX 2091
COLCHESTER VT 05449**

November 2, 2017

Nadine Scibek
Selectboard Members,

The Colchester Center Volunteer Fire Company supports the proposal to create a regional dispatch entity known as the Chittenden County Public Safety Authority. This proposal follows eighteen months of recent work and has been discussed since 1967.

This has been looked at for many years and Fire has supported this cause each time the process has come up.

CCVFC is looking for an improvement in our current situation for dispatching system. We are not confident that the current system meets the requirements that Fire and Rescue need to be safe. We see the points listed below as valuable for the needs of providing better response and safety to our communities.

- Reduce response time in virtually every 911 call by avoiding a transfer to local dispatch saving about 70 seconds per call
- Improve cross jurisdictional mutual aid-which happens every day for rescue and frequently for fire
- Increase minimum staffing levels allowing more dispatchers to resource multiple emergencies in a single community
- Provide dispatchers with more support, training opportunities, and advancement prospects within the field of dispatch
- Provide dedicated oversight to fire and EMS calls, increasing responder safety

As Chief, I have been involved with and briefed on this process.

Colchester Center Volunteer Fire Company both supports the placement of the agreement on the ballot and recommends approval thereof by Town voters.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Chmielewski



Malletts Bay Fire Department

844 Church Road
P.O. Box 4
Colchester, VT 05446

Stephen Bourgeois Chief
Richard Desautels 1st Assistant Chief
David Weissenstein 2nd Assistant Chief
Dale Newton Deputy Chief

October 16, 2017
Colchester Selectboard
781 Blakely Rd. | P.O. Box 55
Colchester, Vermont 05446

Colchester Selectboard

The Malletts Bay Fire Department and the Colchester Fire District 2 Prudential Committee support the proposal to create a regional dispatch entity known as the Chittenden County Public Safety Authority. This proposal follows eighteen months of recent work and has been discussed since 1967.

Two prior studies, in 1995 and 2000 determined that regional dispatch was viable and worthwhile. Regional dispatch, especially when combined with a regional public safety answering point is worthwhile because it can:

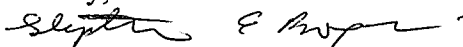
- Reduce response time in virtually every 911 call by avoiding a transfer to local dispatch saving about 70 seconds per call
- Improve cross jurisdictional mutual aid-which happens every day for rescue and regularly for fire
- Increase minimum staffing at any given time allowing more dispatchers to resource multiple emergencies in a single community
- Provide dedicated oversight to fire and EMS calls, increasing responder safety

The current effort focused on how to achieve regional dispatch from two perspectives, a technical perspective and a governance perspective. It was determined that there was no entity with the authority to operate regional dispatch. Thus, much time was spent evaluating governance options and developing an agreement that will serve as a charter for the organization.

As Chief, I have been involved with and briefed on this process, and have kept Colchester Fire District 2 Prudential Committee informed. While much work remains, the next step is to ask Select boards and Councils to allow the agreement to be placed on our local Town Meeting ballot. The Malletts Bay Fire Department and the Colchester Fire District 2 Prudential Committee both support the placement of the agreement on the ballot and recommends approval thereof by Town voters.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Stephen E. Bourgeois
Chief

Malletts Bay Fire Department

MEMORANDUM

TO: COLCHESTER SELECTBOARD
FROM: CHIEF JENNIFER MORRISON *JM#190*
SUBJECT: REGIONAL DISPATCH
DATE: OCTOBER 19, 2017
CC: AARON FRANK & ALL CPD PERSONNEL

The Colchester Police Department supports the proposal to create a regional dispatch entity known as the Chittenden County Public Safety Authority. This proposal follows eighteen months of recent work and is a concept that has been discussed since 1967. Two prior studies, in 1995 and 2000 determined that regional dispatch was viable and worthwhile. Regional dispatch, especially when combined with a regional public safety answering point can:

- Reduce response time in virtually every 911 call by avoiding a transfer to local dispatch saving precious time on each call;
- Improve cross jurisdictional mutual aid-which happens regularly;
- Increase minimum staffing levels allowing more dispatchers to resource multiple emergencies in a single community;
- Provide dispatchers with more support, training opportunities, and advancement prospects within the field of dispatch;
- Provide dedicated oversight to fire and EMS calls, increasing responder safety.

The current effort to regionalize has focused on how to achieve regional dispatch from two perspectives, a technical perspective and a governance perspective. It was determined that there was no entity with the authority to operate a true regional dispatch. Thus, much time was spent evaluating governance options and developing an agreement that will serve as a charter for the organization.

As Chief, I have been involved with and briefed on this process. While much work remains, the next step is to ask local governments to allow the agreement to be placed on our Town Meeting ballots. The Colchester Police Department both supports the placement of the agreement on the ballot and recommends approval thereof by Town voters.



Colchester Rescue

687 Blakely Rd
Colchester, VT 05446
(802) 264-5590
Fax: (802) 264-5592



October 10, 2017

Colchester Selectboard
781 Blakely Rd.
Colchester, Vermont 05446

Colchester Selectboard,

The Colchester Rescue Squad supports the proposal to create a regional dispatch entity known as the Chittenden County Public Safety Authority. This proposal follows eighteen months of recent work and has been discussed since 1967.

Two prior studies, in 1995 and 2000 determined that regional dispatch was viable and worthwhile. Regional dispatch, especially when combined with a regional public safety answering point is beneficial because it can:

- Reduce response time in virtually every 911 call by 1) avoiding a transfer to a local dispatch center, 2) knowing the status of ambulances, and dispatching the closest, without having to make several phone calls.
- Improve cross jurisdictional mutual aid response -which happens daily for rescue calls
- Increase minimum staffing at any given time allowing more dispatchers to resource multiple emergencies in a single community
- Provide dedicated oversight to fire and EMS calls, increasing responder safety

The current effort focused on how to achieve regional dispatch from two perspectives, a technical perspective and a governance perspective. It was determined that there was no entity with the authority to operate regional dispatch. Thus, much time was spent evaluating governance options and developing an agreement that will serve as a charter for the organization.

As Chief, I have been involved with and briefed on this process. While much work remains, the next step is to ask Select boards and Councils to allow the agreement to be placed on our local Town Meeting ballot. The Colchester Rescue Squad both supports the placement of the agreement on the ballot and recommends approval thereof by Town voters. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

S. Amy Akerlind,
Colchester Rescue Chief



Colchester Technical Rescue

Town of Colchester
687 Blakely Rd.
Colchester, VT 05446



Fax: (802) 264-0749
Phone: (802) 264-5590

October 12, 2017

Colchester Selectboard
781 Blakely Rd.
Colchester, Vermont 05446

Colchester Selectboard and Colchester Technical Rescue Members:

Colchester Technical Rescue supports the proposal to create a regional dispatch entity known as the Chittenden County Public Safety Authority. This proposal follows eighteen months of recent work and has been discussed since 1967.

Two prior studies, in 1995 and 2000 determined that regional dispatch was viable and worthwhile. Regional dispatch, especially when combined with a regional public safety answering point is worthwhile because it can:

- Reduce response time in virtually every 911 call by avoiding a transfer to local dispatch saving about 70 seconds per call
- Improve cross jurisdictional mutual aid-which happens every day for rescue
- Increase minimum staffing at any given time allowing more dispatchers to resource multiple emergencies in a single community
- Provide dedicated oversight to fire and EMS calls, increasing responder safety

As Chief, I have been involved with this process. While much work remains, the next step is to ask Select boards and Councils to allow the agreement to be placed on our local Town Meeting ballot. Colchester Technical Rescue both supports the placement of the agreement on the ballot and recommends approval thereof by Town voters.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Cannon

Michael Cannon
Chief, Colchester Technical Rescue



TOWN OF MILTON, VERMONT 05468-3205

Dept. of Public Safety • 43 Bombardier Road • 802-893-6655 • FAX: 893-1005

November 16, 2017

Re: Support for Chittenden County Dispatch Center

To Whom It May Concern:

The Town of Milton public safety services support efforts to consolidate Chittenden County dispatch centers. The benefits to citizens throughout our county, and in Milton, are clear. Improved staffing, decreased connection times, and increased interoperability are important goals that are impossible to reach without dispatch consolidation.

Throughout the survey process, the Town of Milton has watched carefully to ensure any consolidation maintains or improves operations from their current level, protects tax payers, and meets the county's public safety goals. With these principles in mind, I offer our full support to improvements that should come with the implementation of a regional dispatch center.

Sincerely,

Taylor F.J. Yeates
Public Safety Director
Town of Milton

From: Chief Jennifer Morrison [mailto:jennifer.morrison@colchesterpdvt.org]
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 8:52 AM
To: Aaron Frank
Subject: FW: CCLEE letter to support regional dispatch 2017.docx

Aaron – Al Buck is the Chief of Richmond PD.

From: "Buck, Alan" <Alan.Buck@vermont.gov>
Date: November 13, 2017 at 6:05:15 PM EST
To: Trevor Whipple <twhipple@southburlingtonpolice.org>
Subject: RE: CCLEE letter to support regional dispatch 2017.docx

I can support this in concept.

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Shelburne Fire Department

P.O. Box 911

Shelburne, Vermont 05482

Phone: 802-985-2366

Fax: 802-985-2192

Website: www.shelburnefire.org

October 30th, 2017

Shelburne Select Board
Joe Colangelo, Town Manager
Shelburne, Vt. 05482

Joe and Select Board,

The Shelburne Fire Department supports the proposal to create a regional dispatch entity. Regional dispatch is worthwhile because it can;

Improve the mutual aid response with our neighboring departments which Shelburne, as well as many other volunteer departments, relies on in various situations.

Provide a dedicated dispatch element to Fire to increase responder's safety.

Reduce the requests by IC for additional resources, allowing IC to focus on the incident they are responding to.

As Chief, I have been involved with an updated on the progress of this process, and, with the proper input from the agencies involved, feel that regional dispatch will be a positive move for the fire service. The Shelburne Fire Department feels the Select Board should give this proposal consideration.

Respectfully,
Jerry Ouimet
Chief
Shelburne Volunteer Fire Department



Shelburne Police Department

P.O. Box 58
5420 Shelburne Rd., Suite 100
SHELBOURNE, VERMONT 05482-0058

802-985-8051
Emergency Dial 911 Fax 802-985-5114

Memorandum

TO: Shelburne's Town Manager and Selectboard
FROM: Acting Chief Aaron Noble
SUBJECT: Regional Dispatch
DATE: October 25, 2017
CC: Shelburne Police Department

The Shelburne Police Department supports the project to create a regional dispatch center known as the Chittenden County Public Safety Authority.

I have been continually briefed on this project and it is my understanding that a regional entity can provide better coordination of emergency services among neighboring towns in Chittenden County. By increasing minimum staffing and utilizing enhanced technology, which will be shared by neighboring police departments regionally, the new entity will benefit police services in Shelburne and the county. And, as quite a few Shelburne residents work outside of town, the enhanced coordination will benefit residents when they require service from an agency in a neighboring town.

In addition, it is my understanding that a regional entity will provide career dispatchers with more support, professional development, and advancement opportunities within their field. I also understand that EMS and Fire agencies across the region will benefit from more dedicated oversight, which will increase responder safety.

The Shelburne Police Department supports placing the agreement to form the entity known as the Chittenden County Public Safety Authority on the Shelburne Town Meeting ballot and recommends approval by Shelburne voters.

Sincerely,

Aaron Noble
Shelburne Acting Police Chief



SOUTH BURLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



To: Kevin Dorn, City Manager

From: Trevor Whipple, Chief of Police

Date: November 11, 2017

Re: Support of Regional Dispatch model

I am writing this memo in support of Regional Dispatch for Chittenden County. I have been the chief of police in South Burlington for just over 11 years. During this time I have seen first-hand the struggles of having many agencies staff their own dispatch centers. These have been highlighted by our own dispatch staff as they have asked for additional staff and a supervisory position.

In the current form we dispatch only for South Burlington emergency services. We staff a 24 hour dispatch center with just 6 employees. Most days this is adequate until one dispatcher takes leave or resigns. The loss of just one person from the schedule causes immediate overtime and reduces the times we have two dispatchers on duty.

In the current form, our dispatch center is supervised by a police sergeant for fewer than 20 hours per week. We have no promotional opportunities and, after the initial training, limited training opportunities.

During my time as chief for the City of Barre I was in charge of operating a regional dispatch center. We dispatched for 14 agencies, covering two counties. The regionalization provided for better coordination, staffing and faster response.

It is my belief that having the City of South Burlington become a part of a regionalized dispatch center would provide faster response to emergencies, better staffing, and improved working conditions. Having an overall larger staff pool would allow more dispatchers to be on duty at one time, opportunities for supervisory positions, ongoing training, and quality control.

19 Gregory Drive, Suite 1, South Burlington, Vermont 05403

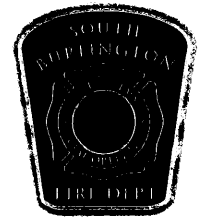
Dispatch: 846-4111(Fax 846-4102) • Records 846-4160 (Fax 846-4204) • Administration 846-4165 (Fax 846-4205)

Trevor S. Whipple, Chief of Police



South Burlington Fire Department

575 Dorset Street
South Burlington, VT 05403
(802) 846-4110
Fax (802) 846-4125



To: South Burlington City Council
City Manager Kevin Dorn

From: Douglas Brent, Chief of Fire and EMS

DB

Date: November 6, 2017

Re: Regional Dispatch Support

Let me start by saying, *I believe the time has come.* The purpose of this letter is to voice my full support of the concept of regional receipt and dispatch of emergency police, fire and EMS calls. This effort must include a centralized location with full CAD (computer aided dispatch) and 9-1-1 PSAP (public safety answering point) capabilities.

The time at which a 9-1-1 call is received begins a very important time line. In most cases the public perception of the quality of their emergency services is often based on how long they took to arrive at a location when called for help. This is known as **Response Time**.

Response time is a common performance measure used by the public and the Police, Fire and EMS service because it is understood by citizens, it's easy to compute, and it's useful in the evaluation of end results. An acceptable Response Time is a time that works to get medical aid to victims in 4 minutes or less to increase survival rates and in 4 to 5 minutes or less to prevent unrestrained fire growth and prevent further damage or injuries.

Response time is made up of the following components; Call Processing or Alarm Handling Time, Turnout or Reaction Time, and Travel Time.

Call Processing or Alarm Handling Time — is the time interval from the receipt of the call at the primary public safety answering point (PSAP) until the of the transmittal of the response information via voice or electronic means to response forces.

Turnout or Reaction Time — the time interval that begins when the response forces and response units process receive either an audible alarm or visual annunciation or both and includes dressing/preparation, mounting of vehicles and opening station doors.

Travel Time - is the time interval that begins when a unit is en route to the emergency incident and ends when the unit arrives at the scene. Travel times are a function of geography, road conditions, traffic/congestion, and the number of and location of fire stations with respect to the location of actual calls.

Total response or reflex time is the most important metric because it combines all of these time segments and is the measure by which the public evaluates the effectiveness of Police, Fire and EMS service.

My point is this:

- We control our Turnout and Reaction Time with our employees, in our buildings with our training.
- We control our Travel Time with our vehicles, our training, with our station locations.
- We don't control Call Processing and Alarm Handling because the first part of the two part call handling process includes employees not under our control, employees not trained by us, and equipment not under our control.

There are many aspects of emergency call response which are outside of our control and not manageable, such as detection of a fire or medical emergency and the time it takes to report the fire or medical emergency. We as a department and as a city government have worked tirelessly and spent lots of taxpayer dollars to control those aspects of emergency response which we can manage and can positively affect.

Vermont Enhanced 9-1-1 went on line in 1994. Since that time there have been numerous technological advances many of which could directly affect our Call Processing and Alarm Handling. For 23 years we have had our emergency calls answered this way with little or no changes. The baseline study which was done by DeltaWorx identified that by combining emergency call receipt and dispatch regionally with our neighbors that we could REDUCE Call Processing and Alarm Handling by 71 seconds.

Summary

There are many reasons which I feel we need to move to a new model for emergency dispatch services. I would be willing to discuss these many reasons as needed (and have as a member of the Technical Committee). The safety of our employees and the safety of the public are the critical elements.

Because of this and if for no other reason, reduction in Response Time by over a minute due to changes to the way we do Call Processing and Alarm Handling, this concept needs to move forward.

I am available to assist this process as needed.



TOWN OF WILLISTON FIRE DEPARTMENT



November 8, 2017

Town of Williston Selectboard
7900 Williston Road
Williston, VT 05495

Dear Members of the Selectboard:

The Williston Fire Department, wholeheartedly supports the proposal to create a regional dispatch entity known as the Chittenden County Public Safety Authority. This proposal follows eighteen months of recent work and has been discussed since 1967. Two prior studies, in 1995 and 2000 determined that regional dispatch was viable and worthwhile.

Our current dispatch systems, county-wide, only allow for, knowledge of what is happening within one community or dispatch center. If mutual aid is needed presently, many telephone calls are needed to each various mutual aid town/agency to provide vehicles/personnel for mutual aid assignments. Precious time is wasted calling many different agencies, resulting in delayed responses, and there is much room for human error since so many people are handling emergency information. In addition, in times of crisis, our small dispatch centers are often overworked and understaffed, there again, delaying response times and having a greater percentage of human error.

In a broad based regional/central dispatch system, all agencies, and their emergencies, can be viewed at the same time, and mutual aid calls can be made simultaneously by one individual, reducing error percentages and increasing the response times.

Regional dispatch, especially when combined with a regional public safety answering point can:

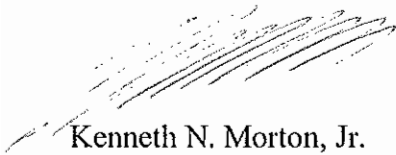
- Reduce response time in virtually every 911 call by avoiding a transfer to local dispatch saving about 70 seconds per call
- Improve multiple town/agency mutual aid-which happens every day for rescue, and frequently for fire
- Increase minimum staffing levels allowing more dispatchers to resource multiple emergencies in a single community
- Provide dispatchers with more support, training opportunities, and advancement prospects within the field of dispatch
- Provide dedicated oversight to fire and EMS calls, increasing responder safety

The current effort focused on how to achieve regional dispatch from two perspectives, a technical perspective and a governance perspective. It has been determined that there was no entity with the authority to operate regional dispatch. Thus, much time has been spent evaluating governance options, and developing an agreement that will serve as a charter for the organization.

As Chief, I have been involved with, and briefed on, this process, and I have kept the Town Manager, the Fire Department and the Police Chief informed. While much work remains, the next step is to ask Selectboards and Councils to allow the agreement to be placed on our local Town Meeting ballot. The Williston Fire Department strongly supports both the placement of the agreement on the ballot, and recommends approval thereof by Town voters.

Thanks for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Kenneth N. Morton, Jr.
Fire Chief

cc: Rick McGuire, Town Manager
Chief Foley, Williston Police

From: Foley, Patrick T. [<mailto:Patrick.Foley@vermont.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 11:38 AM
To: Chief Jennifer Morrison
Subject: RE: CCLEE letter to support regional dispatch 2017.docx

Yes I support the regional dispatch.

From: Chief Jennifer Morrison [<mailto:jennifer.morrison@colchesterpdvt.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 11:36 AM
To: Foley, Patrick T. <Patrick.Foley@vermont.gov>
Subject: FW: CCLEE letter to support regional dispatch 2017.docx

Hi Pat,
Can you clarify that this means you are supportive of continuing to pursue regional dispatch?
I presume that is what you meant, but don't want to put words in your mouth!!!
Thanks,
Jen



Kris Gaudette
Public Safety Coordinator

CITY OF WINOOSKI

Fire Department

John J. Audy Jr
Fire Chief
27 West Allen Street
Winooski, VT 05404



John Spittle
Battalion Chief

November 15, 2017

Jesse Baker
City Manager, City of Winooski

As Fire Chief of the City of Winooski I support the proposal to create a regional dispatch entity known as the Chittenden Public Safety Authority. For the last 18 months I have followed and briefly represented the City of Winooski as this proposal has materialized.

The current array of local dispatching is VERY siloed, and does not support efforts to work effectively and efficiently with our many partners. Winooski relies heavily on mutual aid and we work hard to support the same. The current dispatching arrangements are fractured, making this difficult. The safety of our personnel and the effectiveness of the services we provide all hinge on receiving timely, accurate, and consistent dispatching. I believe the following key points will be seen as system improvements as we move forward:

- Reduce response time for 911 calls by avoiding transfer to local dispatch. We are told this could be upward of 70 seconds per call, seconds count!
- Improve cross jurisdictional mutual aid. This happens every day for rescue and frequently for fire.
- Increase minimum staffing levels allowing more dispatchers to resource multiple emergencies in a single community.
- Provide dispatchers with more support, training opportunities, and advancement(s) within the dispatch profession.
- Provide dedicated oversight to fire and EMS calls, increasing responder safety.

I feel we should view as an investment in the improvement of services we provide as well as safety to all our Police, Fire, and EMS staff.

Respectfully,

From: Rick Hebert
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 8:15 AM
To: Chief Jennifer Morrison
Subject: Support of Regional Dispatch

Chief Morrison,

Please accept this email as my confirmation that the Winooski Police Department supports the concept of a Regional Dispatch Center.

I understand that there are specific details that aren't available to municipalities as of today's date.

The City of Winooski is committed to becoming a working partner to make this project a reality. I look forward to working with the group in the future.

Respectfully,

Rick Hebert

Rick Hebert
Chief of Police
Winooski Police Department
27 West Allen St
Winooski, VT 05404
Tel - 802-655-0221 X 18
Fax - 802-655-6427



11/14/2017

Dawn Francis
Town Manager
Town of Colchester
781 Blakely Road
Colchester, VT 05446

Dear Ms. Francis:

Please accept this letter as the Chamber's endorsement of the concept of creating a regional dispatch service for the eight participating Chittenden County communities. The work that your group has done in outlining the efficiencies and increased public safety that will accompany a regional model is unquestionable. Public safety, be it police, fire, rescue or other first responders, is of critical importance to the business community. It not only protects our business property but, more importantly, it supports the type of community that we want for our employees and their families.

We would be grateful if you let us know how we might further support your efforts. To close, please accept our gratitude and extend our thanks to the team that has worked on this. It is a practical solution to a problem that has been recognized for quite a while. We appreciate the political will that is behind this solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Torti", written in a cursive style.

Thomas W. Torti
President



SAINT MICHAEL'S FIRE & RESCUE

One Winooski Park, Box 280

Colchester, Vermont 05439

November 14, 2017

Colchester Select board
781 Blakely Road
Colchester VT, 05446

Select board Members,

Saint Michael's College Fire and Rescue is currently dispatched by two separate entities. Our rescue unit is dispatched by the Saint Michael's College switchboard for the four communities that our ambulances serve. Our fire unit is a battalion of the Colchester Center Volunteer Fire Company and subsequently is dispatched by the Colchester Police Department. Additionally, recognize our unique position as the College's switchboard currently is able to rapidly dispatch fire and EMS to incidents on our campus.

For the past eighteen months, we have been closely watching the hard work and progress that has been made, towards establishing a regional dispatch entity known as the Chittenden County Public Safety Authority. We support the continued work and timeline as outlined by the joint survey committee. We see the points listed below as valuable for the needs of providing better response and safety to our communities.

- Reduce response time for 911 calls by avoiding a transfer to local dispatch
- Improve cross jurisdictional mutual aid-which happens every day for rescue and frequently for fire
- Increase minimum staffing levels allowing more dispatchers to resource multiple emergencies in a single community
- Provide dispatchers with more support, training opportunities, and advancement prospects within the field of dispatch

- Provide dedicated oversight to fire and EMS calls, increasing responder safety

We recognize that the effort thus far by the Joint Survey Committee was focused on how to achieve regional dispatch from both a technical and governance perspective. It was determined that there was no one entity with the authority to operate a regional dispatch. Thus, much time was spent evaluating governance options and developing an agreement that will serve as a charter for the organization.

As Chiefs, we have been involved with and briefed on this process. While much work remains, we agree that the next step is to ask Select boards and Councils to allow the agreement to be placed on the local Town Meeting ballot. Saint Michael's College Fire and Rescue supports the placement of the agreement on the ballot for approval by town voters.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Erik Haversang
Fire Chief



Leslie Lindquist
Rescue Chief