

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 6, 2014

PRESS RELEASE

FROM: Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt, City of Woonsocket, Rhode Island

FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt today announced the development of a comprehensive plan to consolidate the dispatch services of the Woonsocket Police and Fire Departments. The State Budget Commission has approved the hiring of fourteen part-time temporary civilian dispatchers to replace active full-time fire fighters who have performed these functions. Mayor Baldelli-Hunt said: "I want to thank the fire fighters union and the Local 670 municipal workers for agreeing to this consolidation." She continued: "This move alone will achieve cost savings of \$700,000 per year and will help to reduce the overall cost of overtime within the Fire Department."

The next step involves the purchase of advanced equipment needed to make the new dispatch system operate effectively. The site selected for both dispatchers and equipment will be the Woonsocket Police Station on Clinton Street. The Mayor credited the contribution of several key individuals: "With the hard work and cooperation of Fire Chief Shatraw, Acting Fire Chief Walsh, Police Chief Carey, and Public Safety Director Jalette, this project is now a reality and the public safety of our community has been significantly enhanced." "We can all be proud of their teamwork."

The Mayor also noted that in addition to the budgetary savings realized by consolidated dispatch, project financing would also utilize Federal Community Development Block Grants."

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