

CITY OF BATAVIA

DATE: March 22, 2013
TO: Alderman James Volk, City Services Chair
FROM: Mayor Jeff Schielke JDS
SUBJECT: ESDA Reorganization

I wanted to clarify my earlier about the proposed reorganization of ESDA with the Batavia Fire Department for Wednesday's City Services meeting. They just include terminology differences to be consistent with the proposed Code changes but make the entire concept clearer. I have reviewed them with the staff. I have also kept the basic message of the earlier comments as this will be posted on the City website and give residents a better understanding.

I would note that several members of the City Council have told me that they have their own comments or questions relative to this subject which they would like to discuss at a City Services Committee meeting.

- A. The ESDA Coordinator *as contained in the state statutes* will be the Fire Chief.
- B. The person who will *directly manage and work* with the ESDA Volunteers will be the *ESDA Manager*.
- C. Under the fire department chain of command the ESDA Manager will report directly to the Fire Chief.
- D. The ESDA Manager will be similar to the Superintendents, that is, he or she will be appointed by the Mayor, and confirmed by the City Council, even though day-to-day he or she are managed by Department Heads and the City Administrator. I would note that under the current city chain of command all department heads fall under the direction of the City Administrator but many are assigned to report and coordinate their activities to another Department Head. This certainly the case in Public Works where the Public Works Director oversees the Street, Waste Water, Electric and Water Departments.
- E. It is my recommendation that we compensate the ESDA Manager at the 2012 Budget level, and review that compensation as is done with the general City employees We would need to amend this year's budget to facilitate this recommendation before an appointment is made.
- F. Under the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) which is now the recognized mutual aid system throughout the State of Illinois, all dispatching of emergency agencies and units is done by a pre-determined and approved response system centered around fire departments. A similar system has also been put together by police agencies. This system has basically eliminated the Batavia's ESDA from being included in any requests for assistance from outside agencies. A suggestion that they were still being included for response into DuPage County has been checked out directly with that Agency's Coordinator and we find out that this is not the case. One of the

benefits of placing our ESDA under the Batavia Fire Department will be that we will be able to include their response as part of our fire department's, if needed.

G. A review of area ESDA units finds that a number of communities in Kane County have eliminated any use of city-controlled ESDA units and have given the entire concept over to the Kane County ESDA. In most of our neighboring towns, Geneva, St. Charles, and North Aurora coordination of ESDA has been assumed by their fire department already.

H. Chief Deicke informs me that it is his intention to include ESDA in many of the operations of the fire department. This would include automatic response to general alarms for assistance in such areas as scene lighting, crowd and traffic control and command aid assistance. He also informs me he will be exploring other concepts for utilizing ESDA in emergency situations.

Please discuss Ordinance 13-02 Wednesday in light of these comments.

C: City Council
Bill McGrath
Chief Deicke
Jason Bajor
ESDA