



Pittsfield Charter Township
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Residents' Safety: First Priority in Pittsfield Township

Pittsfield Township (February 16, 2011) – “Feeling safe at home and at work is fundamental to the quality of life enjoyed in Pittsfield Township,” stated Supervisor Mandy Grewal. “Protecting our children, our homes and the businesses located here is the most important responsibility of Township government. I take that responsibility seriously and believe that the Pittsfield community does too.” noted Grewal.

With the existing 10-year Public Safety millage due to expire, on May 3rd Pittsfield Township is requesting residents to vote on a 1.95 millage to ensure continued Police, Fire, and E-911 Dispatch services. If approved, the millage will be effective for the period 2012-2021.

“Pittsfield Township’s public safety – Police, Fire, and E-911 Dispatch – personnel provide one of the best response times (under 6 minutes on average) at one of the lowest per capita costs in Washtenaw County. In fact, the 1.95 mill rate will continue to be the lowest rate for combined Police, Fire and E-911 Dispatch services in the county.” Grewal explained.

“Safeguarding the Pittsfield Township community is a community-based pro-active approach that focuses on prevention and education. Our Police and Fire personnel have well established ties with the residents and business community. These strong bonds and familiarity with the Township allows our officers and first responders to provide timely and personalized attention. As a result, Pittsfield Township enjoys one of the lowest crime rates in Washtenaw County,” pointed out Supervisor Grewal.

“Becoming Director of Public Safety in Pittsfield Township was a long-standing personal goal of mine,” Harshberger said. With a firm belief in the effectiveness of Community-Based Policing, under the leadership Matt Harshberger, Director of Pittsfield Public Safety Department, numerous regional initiatives have been put in place to maximize efficiencies in deployment of Township resources. “Supervisor Grewal has been fully supportive of my efforts to streamline operations, move out into the community in new ways and lay the groundwork for a community that is secure, welcoming and on the cutting edge of public safety strategies. This millage is essential to continuing the progress we are making in setting the Gold Standard in public service for the people who rely on us when they call for help.” Harshberger detailed.

The Pittsfield Township Department of Public Safety currently has 39 sworn Police officers, 24 full-time Firefighters, and nine E-911 Dispatchers.

“On May 3, Pittsfield Township residents will make an important statement about the quality of life they expect and the level of Public Safety service they want for our community. In the coming weeks, we will be reaching out to answer questions and more fully describe our goals for the Department,” Harshberger concluded.

A schedule of Community Forums about the proposed Public Safety Millage will be announced soon.

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