

TOWNSHIP OF MARLBORO

1979 TOWNSHIP DRIVE
MARLBORO, NJ 07746-2299
www.marlboro-nj.gov

Mayor

Jonathan L. Hornik

Phone: (732) 536-0200

Email: mayor@marlboro-nj.gov

SUBJECT: Marlboro Township Dispatch Services

Dear Resident:

As Mayor of Marlboro, the public safety and health of our residents has always been one of the most important priorities of my administration. For this reason, I strongly believe that continuing to have Marlboro employees perform the dispatching services for Police, Fire and First Aid (EMS) best serves our residents. Public safety is much too critical to surrender to an organization not entirely focused on our community.

Currently, the Township provides emergency dispatch services for police, Fire and EMS. Emergency 911 calls for service are handled by trained telecommunicators employed by Marlboro and located right in Town Hall. Most of our dispatchers live in town, they all take pride in their jobs, and some even go on to become sworn police officers right here in Marlboro. The emergency dispatch system is quite literally the backbone of our public safety and public health response.

There is a push by some here in Town to shut down our local dispatch operation and outsource those duties to the County. Under this model, when you or a loved one dials 911, a call taker located in Freehold or Neptune first screens the call, and then hands it off to someone else who dispatches our local Marlboro first responders.

I could not disagree more with this model.

We are a large and complex town where familiarity with neighborhoods, first responders and residents may mean the difference between life and death. We do not need a dispatcher in Freehold trying to figure out the difference between School Road East and School Road West, or where Tennent Road finishes in Manalapan and begins in Marlboro. And we certainly can't afford to have a dispatcher in Neptune prioritizing a call from Red Bank over an incoming call from Marlboro.

After careful analysis and numerous meetings with our public safety team, I am proposing that we invest in upgrading the Township's communication system. Under my plan, we will utilize the state-of-the-art infrastructure established by the New Jersey State Police. We will acquire new radios and 911 phone consoles, upgrade the computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system, and continue to dispatch emergency calls with Marlboro employees. Simply put, as Mayor, I am not about to give up our local dispatch capabilities to the County or anyone else.

I have been a firm supporter of shared services and consolidation for Marlboro where it is appropriate. However, each shared service agreement must maintain or improve service -- particularly in areas of health and public safety. In my opinion, a regionalized system with the County which requires that we give up our local dispatchers would degrade our capabilities and put us at risk.

Being Mayor of my hometown is the greatest privilege of my lifetime, and knowing that I have been elected by the residents of Marlboro and have their trust is an extraordinary honor. I will never compromise the people of this great community on matters of public safety, health and security.

Yours in Community



Mayor Jonathan Hornik