

County of Hamilton



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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

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September 24, 2007

From: William H. Hinkle

Director

Hamilton County

Department of Communications
2377 Civic Center Drive

Cincinnati, OH 45231

To: Commission Secretary

To: Commission Secretary
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: In the matter of the application of Intrado Communications Inc. for authority to provide 9-1-1 emergency services throughout the state of Ohio. (Case No. 07-941-TP-UNC, Intrado Communications Inc.)

Dear Commission Secretary;

As the director for the Hamilton County Emergency Communication Center, I am submitting this correspondence in support of free and open competition for 9-1-1 services in the State of Ohio by qualified and capable 9-1-1 service providers. The Hamilton County Communication Center is a public safety answering point (PSAP) that supports 46 political jurisdictions, serving a population of over 500,000 and answering 260,000 emergency 9-1-1 calls annually. By approving Intrado Communications' application for authority to provide 9-1-1 emergency services, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio is taking the first step in providing the Ohio public safety answering points (PSAPs) the opportunity to choose the 9-1-1 emergency service provider(s) that provides the most enhanced 9-1-1 services available.

Traditional enhanced 9-1-1 services have not changed appreciably in terms of feature functionality in the past decade. The core of 9-1-1 technology continues to leverage 1970 telecommunications architecture. With the rapid emergence of wireless and VoIP technologies, the increased volume of 9-1-1 calls is having a severe impact on PSAPs.

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We believe that free and open competition in the 9-1-1 market will lead to innovation and application of new technologies to enhance and improve 9-1-1 services to PSAPs throughout the state. It would be a disservice to the citizens of Ohio to establish a regulatory framework that denies competition. We encourage the Commission to approve the Intrado Communications application.

Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions or a desire to discuss this matter further. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

Walter Linkle
William H. Hinkle

Director

(513) 825-2170