



John M. Cannon

Mayor

Efficiency & Excellence

October 9, 2019

Re: Countywide Upgraded Radio Systems

For Immediate Release to the Press:

Back in June of 2019, Chief Williams came to me after a Porter County E911 meeting that was scheduled with local public safety leadership and state officials from IPSC (Integrated Public Safety Commission) on the status of the countywide upgrade to the Porter County Public Safety Communication System. The timeline for those upgrades and switchover had been delayed several times. The initial timeline was March of 2018.

Chief Williams and Fire Chief Tim Sosby were rightfully frustrated with the constant delays and lack of information coming from state officials. They expressed their concern both at the meeting and later to me. They also provided enough background information that allowed me to fully grasp the gravity of the situation for our first responders. It was clear to me the repeated delays and failing communication system affecting our Portage First Responders needed immediate attention.

I met first with County Commissioner Jim Biggs to gather more information; and then a couple days later, I met with Governor Holcomb and Senator Ed Charbonneau to express my concerns for the safety of our first responders and our residents and demanded action. Those demands were met as we saw swift action of progress in the following days, weeks and months from IPSC, leading to today's switchover to the 700MHz radio communication system in Porter County.

The City of Portage purchased over \$650,000 of new radio equipment and technology. I am grateful to see our emergency service personnel finally operating with those upgrades today. As Mayor, public safety is vital to maintain, preserve, and secure a healthy and vibrant community, and that is my commitment to our residents.

"I truly believe that without Mayor Cannon's intervention, we would not be where we are today. Public Safety Communication is vital, and to make this transition was no small feat. Our officers and community are safer because of this much needed switchover." - Chief Troy Williams

Thank you,



John M. Cannon, Mayor