

To the residents of Madison Township,

In 1981, Madison Township residents passed a 1 Mil Fire levy to help maintain and sustain our volunteer Fire Department. Since then, the township has not asked for a levy in the last 28 years. On November 3<sup>rd</sup> of this year, the residents of our community will have the opportunity to vote on a 2 Mil Fire levy. This levy will be exclusively for our Fire/EMS department.

Currently, the owner of a \$100,000 residence in Madison Township pays less than \$1.00 PER MONTH for Fire/EMS services. This same owner would pay \$6.10 per month, including the new levy. The current Life Squad Membership is \$55/yr. If the levy passes, there will be no Life Squad memberships because all township residents would be covered for Fire/EMS services. No residents will be personally billed or financially responsible for any Fire/EMS services. We will only bill your insurance company. For many residents, the new levy would cost about the same as they pay for the Life Squad Membership.

In the past 28 years many things have changed in the field of fire protection, including state mandates, training requirements, vehicles, and equipment cost. What hasn't changed is the amount of revenue generated by the levy in 1981. The current levy has revenue of approximately \$125,000 per year. This money is used to help cover expenses ranging from fire engines, pumper trucks, EMS vehicles, equipment, personnel gear, training, station utilities, maintenance, insurances, and run stipends. Currently, all our Fire/EMS volunteers received a \$10 per run stipend. As of last year, the run stipend became a taxable income to our volunteers.

In 2006, the township acquired Madison Township Life Squad Inc. In 2009, the life squad became a part of the Madison Township Fire Department. This was done to ensure that the residents of Madison Township were still afforded the level of EMS service that was previously available. The same revenue from the 1981 levy is also now used to help support our EMS division. The township did not ask for a levy in 2006 when they acquired the life squad, although they did acquire all the cost associated with taking on the life squad. Although the Life Squad does generate revenue through EMS billing, and our life squad membership, it is not enough to cover the expenses incurred by operating it at its current level. These costs run parallel with fire expenses in that we provide for life squads, equipment, training, station utilities, building maintenance, insurance, and run stipends. Along with the above expenses, our life squad also has a paid, part time staff which works 5 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday. All personnel are part time.

Foremost, passage of this levy would offer a higher and safer level of EMS. By expanding our part time paid personnel to work during the weekends, this would decrease our dependency on mutual aid and ease the burden on our volunteers. Currently, all weekends, evenings, and nights are covered by volunteers.

Secondly, there is no capital fund or "reserve fund" in place for any current or future Fire/EMS expenses such as vehicle replacement, fire gear, scba's, buildings, or other large expenses. Starting a capital fund would allow us to plan and prepare for these future needs instead of borrowing the money and placing the township in debt.

If you have any thoughts, ideas, concerns, or questions, please contact our Administration building at 513-424-0821 or visit our website at [www.MadisonTownshipOnline.com](http://www.MadisonTownshipOnline.com) and submit your question via our online "Fire Levy Q&A section".

Thank you for making our township a great place to live, work, and play.

Sincerely,

Todd Farler  
Administrator  
Madison Township