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Joint Press Release

Grant Awarded for Multi-Municipal Communications Platform

- The municipalities of Tarentum, Brackenridge, and Harrison were recently awarded a grant from Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development that will fund a multi-municipal communications platform for two years. By adopting a resident notification system that is easily operated by the municipalities, Tarentum, Brackenridge, and Harrison will be able to keep their residents informed and safe. Savvy Citizen has been selected as the communications platform due to its local presence, ease of use, and costs. The cost for all three municipalities combined is under ten thousand dollars a year. "This grant will go a long way in making resident's consumption of borough information easier and will provide a method for all three municipalities to prioritize public safety by promptly pushing out escalated, time-sensitive emergency alerts." Said William Vakulick, Chief of Police for Tarentum. Brackenridge Police Sergeant Michael Duffy also stated, "citizens safety is central to the trust the police and borough shares with its residents and this tool will help improve that trust."

In the past, residents needed to attend council meetings, call municipal officials or check the website frequently to learn about critical information, town happenings, and events. This was not an effective way for residents to stay informed and did not support relaying time-sensitive information. Something like an unforeseen garbage pickup delay would often trigger a high volume of calls to the municipalities. For officials, these calls often consumed time answering repetitive questions. There was just no way of broadcasting real-time, helpful information to residents. "The ability to provide an application that will serve the three communities individually and collectively is a unique opportunity. I look forward to being able to immediately notify our residents of time-sensitive issues in one streamlined process." Said Gary Meanor, Harrison Township Commissioner.

In addition to being able to deliver useful information to residents effectively, the municipalities wanted a way to raise awareness and participation in scheduled events and meetings. All three municipalities wanted to increase resident engagement, whether that be participation in town meetings or recreational events like outdoor concerts and events in the park. "It will be nice to have a consolidated system for the municipal governments to communicate officially validated local information in real time if needed for an emergency. This will improve upon our current system of automated phone calls, water bill mailers, third-party news and scanner apps, Facebook, and well-meaning neighborly communication." Said Brackenridge Mayor Lindsay Fraser.

More information will be available within the next few weeks as the implementation plan is developed.

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