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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Columbus Police Department Completes 911 Center Modernization Project**

The Columbus Police Department has completed major renovations to both its primary 911 Emergency Communications Center at Police Headquarters and its backup center at 3111 Citizens Way.

In early 2023, Chief Stoney Mathis initiated a review of the department's 911 facilities. After identifying the need for significant upgrades, he worked with Mayor Skip Henderson to secure funding. On January 23, 2024, Columbus Council approved an additional \$581,459 in the department's budget to support the project.

The Columbus Police Department contracted with Russ Bassett Corporation, a manufacturer of custom emergency dispatch workstations, to design and install 31 new dispatch consoles across both centers. Additional upgrades included new flooring, updated electrical systems, improved lighting, and expanded data infrastructure.

The backup center renovations were completed first, allowing staff to temporarily relocate while the Headquarters Center was upgraded. On December 23, 2024, both centers were fully operational with all enhancements in place.

### **Project costs:**

- Backup Center: \$110,200.33
- Headquarters Center: \$552,354.53
- Total: \$662,554.86

### **Vendors and partners involved:**

- Russ Bassett Corporation (dispatch furniture)
- Mobile Communications America (radio equipment)
- Chambley Electric Company (electrical work)
- Huckaby Brothers Floor Covering (flooring)
- Interstate Electrical Supply (materials and supplies)
- Phoenix Installations (onsite installation)

Additional support came from the Columbus Consolidated Government Information Technology, Finance, and Purchasing Departments, and from the Columbus Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

The completion of this project comes just ahead of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, which runs April 13–19, 2025. It's a timely reminder of the essential work our 911 dispatchers do and a meaningful investment in their ability to serve the community with the tools and environment they deserve.

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