

**AGREEMENT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH SERVICES**  
**BETWEEN THE CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, OHIO AND**  
**THE CITY OF NORTH ROYALTON, OHIO**

This Agreement is entered into as of this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014, by and between the **CITY OF STRONGSVILLE, OHIO** (“Strongsville”), an Ohio Municipal Corporation, with principal offices located at 16099 Foltz Parkway, Strongsville, Ohio 44149, and the **CITY OF NORTH ROYALTON, OHIO** (“Royalton”), an Ohio Municipal Corporation, with principal offices located at 13834 Ridge Road, North Royalton, Ohio 44133.

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Section 737.04 authorizes the legislative authority of any municipal corporation to enter into a contract with another municipal corporation, upon any terms that are agreed upon, for police protection services; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Section 9.60 authorizes a governmental entity to contract with another jurisdiction to obtain fire protection or emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, Strongsville and North Royalton are both charter municipalities with constitutionally-granted home rule powers; and

WHEREAS, North Royalton seeks to obtain additional police and fire protection services from the City of Strongsville in the form of dispatch services (“Public Safety Services”); and

WHEREAS, the Strongsville City Council on \_\_\_\_\_, 2014 passed Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_, authorizing this Agreement with Royalton for public safety services; and

WHEREAS, the North Royalton City Council on \_\_\_\_\_, 2014 passed Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_, authorizing this Agreement with Strongsville for purchase of public safety services; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of Strongsville and Royalton to provide for public safety services in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and of the covenants and agreements herein contained, the parties, intending to be legally bound, agree as follows:

**ARTICLE I – PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH SERVICES**

A. Dispatch Services: Strongsville, through its dispatch center currently located at 18688 Royalton Road, Strongsville, Ohio, but likely to be ultimately relocated to the City’s Communications Center located at 13213 Pearl Road, Strongsville, Ohio, (“Dispatch Center”), agrees to dispatch Royalton Police Department and Fire Department calls, on a twenty-four (24) hour basis, to authorized personnel of the Royalton Police Department and the Royalton Fire Department and other public safety resources (such as animal control) generally with regard to emergency and non-emergency incidents, and with communication support and services/systems directly related to the dispatch function (“Dispatch Services”). Dispatch Services include but are

not limited to the following: dispatching of Royalton police, fire, EMS and service resources on emergency and non-emergency incidents, tracking and documenting the activity of Strongsville personnel providing dispatch services to Royalton on incidents, providing communication support on incidents, providing routine call information data, maintaining Dispatch Services to be Police LEADS capable, and fire station alerting system. The Dispatch Services including processing of calls, to be made available and provided to Royalton shall be equivalent to those Dispatch Services that are provided to the City of Strongsville, and any and all other communities served by Strongsville Dispatch.

B. Dispatch Services Equipment: Strongsville shall furnish all equipment necessary to provide the Dispatch Services to Royalton, including but not limited to all initial base station radio equipment, furniture, consoles and telephone equipment directly related to dispatch functions, and shall routinely maintain such equipment in a reasonable manner. All decisions relating to the provision, maintenance, upgrading, and replacement of such equipment are and shall remain within the sole discretion of Strongsville. However, the parties agree that notice of major capital expenditures which may impact Royalton shall be provided thirty (30) days prior to implementation.

Royalton shall provide all equipment necessary to receive the Dispatch Services in the field provided by Strongsville, including portable radios, mobile radios, mobile data terminals, in-car radio equipment, video cameras and monitors, and any other communications equipment, and shall maintain and replace such equipment in a manner that ensures compatibility with Strongsville's provision of Dispatch Services. Royalton agrees to update and/or replace all equipment necessary to receive the Dispatch Services provided by Strongsville as may be necessary to ensure the provision of Dispatch Services.

Royalton acknowledges that Strongsville in the future may incur additional costs in upgrading, repairing, and replacing equipment necessary to provide the Dispatch Services for the benefit of Royalton and other communities. Royalton and Strongsville agree to negotiate, in good faith, their respective responsibility for any such costs for the benefit of Royalton that are not reimbursed by grants.

Royalton shall be solely responsible to individually pay for its own user fees for such services as LEADS, CAD, RMS or MDC airtime.

C. Personnel: Strongsville shall provide all personnel necessary to provide Dispatch Services to Royalton. All staffing issues, including the number of dispatchers working at any given time, shall be determined by the Strongsville Chief of Police, Fire Chief and Safety Director. Strongsville shall be solely responsible for the management of all Dispatch Center personnel and all personnel-related issues are within the sole management discretion of Strongsville.

Strongsville agrees after the effective date of this Agreement and prior to the commencement of services date to increase the total number of dispatchers employed by Strongsville as necessary within its discretion to handle the increased volume of dispatch activity generated as a result of this Agreement. Any additional positions created shall be full-time bargaining unit positions.

All dispatchers who are hired will become employees of the City of Strongsville. Subject to legal provisions and waiver of civil service requirements, preference will be offered to applicants who are currently full-time public safety dispatchers in Royalton, but their employment is not guaranteed, and is specifically conditioned, among other things, on all of the following:

- (1) Any personnel seeking to be hired must meet all routine City of Strongsville employment requirements for public safety dispatcher.
- (2) All accrued benefits for such applicants including but not limited to vacation leave, sick leave (subject to State law provisions), longevity, personal leave and union benefits shall have been utilized and/or paid off by Royalton prior to their date of hire by the City of Strongsville. Royalton agrees to reimburse Strongsville for any transfers of employee sick leave which may individually exceed four (4) weeks due to an employee invoking State law provisions.
- (3) Any prior dispatcher appointed for employment as a full-time dispatcher by the City of Strongsville will become a member of the applicable Strongsville bargaining unit and subject to the terms of the City of Strongsville applicable bargaining unit agreement (“CBA”).
- (4) Any full time dispatchers appointed by the City of Strongsville shall be deemed to be strictly new employees with regard to any provision of the applicable CBA including seniority, layoff order, and any other benefits or privileges that accrue with time.
- (5) Any full-time dispatchers hired/employed by Strongsville shall become civil service employees, and be subject to the applicable one-year probationary period.
- (6) Certifications and training of new personnel shall be the sole responsibility and expense of the City of Strongsville.

Royalton agrees that it will be solely responsible for undertaking arrangements to cause the de-certification of their current collective bargaining unit for dispatchers, if deemed necessary by Royalton, which should be accomplished prior to any employees being hired. Evidence of such de-certification, if any, will be provided to Strongsville. Royalton will be solely responsible and liable in this regard for any claims, actions, grievances or legal issues arising under its collective bargaining agreement with its dispatchers and arising as a result of entering into this Agreement.

The parties agree that, in the event this Agreement is terminated, Strongsville will experience a lack of work and/or lack of funds and will not be obligated to retain any new dispatch positions created by this Agreement. The parties further agree, in the event this Agreement is terminated, that layoffs of dispatch personnel shall occur in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement then in effect between the City of Strongsville and the Fraternal Order of Police Parma Lodge 15 (Dispatchers) or any other applicable agreement then in effect.

D. Operating Procedures/Operations: Control of operating procedures and operations for the dispatch center shall generally rest within the sole discretion of Strongsville. However, Strongsville agrees to undertake consultations in advance with the Royalton and any other contracting communities regarding any proposed material changes in operating procedures or policies, through a joint advisory board composed of two (2) representatives from each contracting community, being the Police and Fire Chiefs of each participating municipality/township or their respective designees. The board shall be established to meet

periodically and make non-binding recommendations to the City of Strongsville concerning such operating procedures or policies, including but not limited to review, revisions and recommended changes concerning training standards and requirements; standard operating guidelines, policies and procedures; and purchasing and replacement of technical equipment to enhance operations and public safety. Supervision and management over dispatch personnel shall lie solely with the City of Strongsville. Notwithstanding the above, nothing undertaken by the City of Strongsville in connection with its operation of the dispatch center shall materially interfere with the standard operating procedures, response protocols, or other internal operations of the Royalton or the other various individual contracting communities.

E. Payment for Dispatch Services: Royalton, in consideration of the provision of the Dispatch Services outlined herein, agrees to pay Strongsville the amount of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) per month by the first (1<sup>st</sup>) of each month for Dispatch Services provided in that month, for a total annual fee of Four Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$480,000.00) for the first year of operation.

The parties agree to meet directly and/or through the Advisory Board by July 31<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year, or such other date as is mutually agreeable, to evaluate the sufficiency of payments for future Dispatch Services and to discuss in good faith any proposed changes whether increases or decreases in user fees based on an operational cost analysis to include evaluation of costs distribution, changes in workloads, economies of scale and labor costs.

In any event, if workload volume directly related to Royalton increases to a point that additional staffing becomes necessary, the City of Strongsville may within its sole discretion, but after consultation with Royalton, increase monthly fees, and if announced by October 1<sup>st</sup> for the following calendar year. Notwithstanding, the parties further agree that the foregoing monthly payments shall increase, as necessary, to cover any additional expenses, including contractual wage increases, health insurance increases, and other personnel-related costs, associated with Strongsville's cost of employing the additional dispatch personnel necessary to provide Dispatch Services to Royalton. Strongsville shall notify Royalton, in writing, of any such additional expenses at least thirty (30) days prior to the effective date of any increase in payment to Strongsville for dispatch services.

F. No Obligation to Respond/No Liability: This Agreement is not intended to and shall not be construed to require Strongsville to respond beyond the dispatch function to calls or incidents whether of a law enforcement, fire or EMS basis, nor to otherwise provide law enforcement services for events that occur in Royalton. In this regard, Strongsville shall have no liability or responsibility for the actions, errors, omissions or negligence of the Royalton Police or Fire safety forces or service personnel in responding to any dispatch calls taken through the Dispatch Center. And Royalton shall maintain proper levels of insurance in this regard. Notwithstanding this provision, Strongsville may render assistance in accordance with Ohio law, any current mutual aid agreements, and/or any current agreements for dispatch services.

## **ARTICLE II – TERM/TERMINATION**

It is estimated that Strongsville shall begin providing the Public Safety Services at twelve a.m. on March 17, 2014 or as soon thereafter as Strongsville reasonably determines that all training, staffing, systems (including LEADS), and operational prerequisites are set in place and ready (“commencement of services date”). In the interim, the Royalton shall continue to

maintain their current dispatch services and shall provide necessary support to Strongsville for transition efforts. This Agreement shall remain in effect for an initial term of one (1) year, but will renew automatically from year to year unless terminated upon six (6) months advance written notice by either party terminating the Agreement, with or without cause for any reason or no reason.

### **ARTICLE III – FEMA GRANT**

The City of Strongsville has requested transfer of an Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program grant award from FEMA (U.S. Department of Homeland Security) originally directed to the City of Olmsted Falls, to support construction of the within combined dispatch center. Royalton agrees to fully cooperate and do whatever is reasonably necessary, if any, to facilitate transfer of the grant to the City of Strongsville and its designation as grant recipient.

### **ARTICLE IV – PUBLIC RECORDS**

The parties agree and acknowledge that records created pursuant to this Agreement may be public records under the Ohio Public Records Act and agree to coordinate with each other, in a timely manner, on responses to public records requests and with regard to determination of records schedules retention periods and times for destruction. Notwithstanding this provision, the parties agree that nothing in this Article shall be construed as limiting a party from responding to a public records request in accordance with Ohio law. Processes will be established to enable Royalton to obtain access to its recordings of radio and telephone traffic.

### **ARTICLE V – NOTICE**

All notices required hereunder shall be in writing and delivered to the following addresses:

#### **Strongsville:**

Contact Name: Mayor Thomas P. Perciak  
Address: 16099 Foltz Parkway, Strongsville, OH 44149  
Telephone: 440-580-3100  
e-mail: [tom.perciak@strongsville.org](mailto:tom.perciak@strongsville.org)

#### *With a copy to:*

Contact Name: Kenneth A. Kraus, Law Director  
Address: 16099 Foltz Parkway, Strongsville, OH 44149  
Telephone: 440-580-3145  
e-mail: [strongsville.law@strongsville.org](mailto:strongsville.law@strongsville.org)

#### **North Royalton:**

Contact Name: Mayor Robert A. Stefanik  
Address: 13834 Ridge Road, North Royalton, OH 44133  
Telephone: 440-237-4300  
e-mail: [mayorstefanik@northroyalton.org](mailto:mayorstefanik@northroyalton.org)

With a copy to:

Contact Name: Thomas A. Kelly, Law Director  
Address: 13834 Ridge Road, North Royalton, OH 44133  
Telephone: 440-877-1178  
e-mail: [tkelly@northroyalton.org](mailto:tkelly@northroyalton.org)

Any notice or communication shall be deemed effectively given (a) on the date of delivery, if delivered by hand or (b) on the date mailed if sent by overnight express delivery or U.S. Mail.

## **ARTICLE VI – CERTIFICATION OF FUNDS**

Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41 requires Royalton to certify that the funds necessary to pay for this Agreement have been appropriated and either collected or are in the process of collection. Royalton and Strongsville acknowledge and agree this Agreement may automatically renew, and does not provide for a specified final term or end date.

Royalton, in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41, will initially certify this Agreement for Four Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$480,000.00) and shall re-certify this Agreement each year it is in effect for such amounts as may be required to ensure its respective obligations under this Agreement. Upon obtaining the appropriation of additional funds, the Agreement shall be re-certified by the Treasurer or Finance Director of Royalton; and a copy of the additional certification shall be provided to Strongsville's Finance Director.

Failure to certify additional funds, as required by this Agreement, shall be grounds for immediate termination of this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE VII – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

A. Entire Agreement: This Agreement represents the entire and integrated agreement between Strongsville and Royalton concerning the within subject, and supersedes all prior negotiations, representations or agreements, either written or oral.

B. Modification of Contract: It is understood and agreed that this Agreement may not be changed, modified, or altered except by an instrument, in writing, signed by both parties and duly approved and authorized by each party's legislative authority in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio and of each individual party.

C. Multiple Counterparts: This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be regarded as an original and all of which shall constitute but one and the same instrument.

D. Assignment of Contract: Neither party shall assign, delegate, or subcontract any portion of the Dispatch Services without prior written express approval of the other party.

E. Choice of Law/Forum: This Agreement shall be deemed made and entered into in the State of Ohio and shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of Ohio.

Any controversy or claim related directly or indirectly to this Agreement will be resolved in the appropriate court in Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

F. Severability: If any provision of this Agreement, or any covenant, obligation or agreement contained here is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable, such determination shall not affect any other provision, covenant, obligation or agreement, each of which shall be construed and enforced as if such invalid or unenforceable provision were not contained herein. Such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect any valid and enforceable application thereof, and each such provision, covenant, obligation or agreement, shall be deemed to be effective, operative, made, entered into or taken in the manner and to the full extent permitted by law.

G. Other Similar Agreements by Strongsville: Nothing in this Agreement is intended to nor shall it serve to in any way limit the sole and unfettered discretion of the City of Strongsville to contract with other municipalities, townships or political subdivisions for dispatch services and to establish appropriate fees for such purpose totally independent of the arrangement and fees determined for services provided under the within Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this AGREEMENT as of the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

**CITY OF NORTH ROYALTON**  
**("ROYALTON")**

**CITY OF STRONGSVILLE**  
**("STRONGSVILLE")**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Robert A. Stefanik  
City of North Royalton

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Thomas P. Perciak  
City of Strongsville

*Approved as to form:*

*Approved as to form:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
City of North Royalton Law Department  
Thomas A. Kelly, Law Director  
13834 Ridge Road  
North Royalton, OH 44133  
440-877-1178

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City of Strongsville Law Department  
Kenneth A. Kraus, Law Director  
16099 Foltz Parkway  
Strongsville, OH 44149  
440-580-3145

**INITIAL CERTIFICATION OF AVAILABLE FUNDS**

I certify that the money required to meet the first year of this proposal has hereby been lawfully appropriated for such purpose and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of this fund, free from any previous obligation or certification as required by Ohio Revised Code §5705.01 to §5705.47.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Finance Director, City of North Royalton