

NEWS RENSSELAER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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HAMMOND TO TROY: PAY UP OR GET OUT OF 911

The Deputy Minority Leader of the Rensselaer County Legislature, Keith Hammond of Poestenkill, said today, "If Troy's mayor wants to keep receiving 911 services from the county, he should pay the amount of the contract, or go it alone."

According to Keith Hammond, " It is totally unacceptable that Troy's administration is not willing to pay the price of 911 services. They seem willing to jeopardize citizen's safety and threaten to further burden county taxpayers in the process."

"The City of Troy has had a year's worth of 911 service provided free so far, and now they want to negotiate a new contract at a *reduced* price ... that is administration by fantasy."

"I doubt there are any other vendors who have *reduced* their prices to the city lately. With inflation and rising costs, that is simply unrealistic."

"The City of Troy stopped providing its own emergency communications and contracted with the County to provide those services years ago. The City agreed to a contract and needs to abide by it. If Troy wants to continue receiving the services, the city needs to pay the price -- like they would to any other vendor."

"It's interesting that, when Troy had a Democratic mayor, the Republicans on the County Legislature severed the contract for 911 services and threatened to force the city to go back to providing its own 911 services. Now that City Hall is controlled by Republicans, the Legislature's Republican Majority has been noticeably silent on the subject."

"Perhaps the fact that one Troy legislator's husband is a city councilman and that another county legislator is employed by the city, clouds their judgement and presents inherent conflicts of interest."

"The bottom line is that the City needs to look elsewhere to save money and not jeopardize citizens' safety over a few dollars," said Hammond.