



# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**City of Big Rapids and Big Rapids Charter Township Enter 1-Year Mutual Aid Fire Services Agreement**

Big Rapids, MI – The City of Big Rapids and Big Rapids Charter Township have signed a 1-year mutual aid agreement for fire services, strengthening their collaborative efforts to provide efficient and effective emergency response to both communities.

Under this agreement, Big Rapids Charter Township will provide the Big Rapids Fire Department with the use of all its fire and rescue equipment and buildings. In return, the City will extend fire and rescue services to the township under the same terms as those provided within the City for the year.

Throughout this period, data regarding funding and overall operations will be collected and reviewed by officials from both the city and township to determine if the contract terms remain relevant or if adjustments are necessary.

“This one-year agreement is an important step in our commitment to collaboration and community safety,” said Fred Guenther, Mayor of the City of Big Rapids. “By working together, we are ensuring that both the City and Township have the resources needed to handle emergencies of any scale.”

“This partnership demonstrates how local governments can work together to achieve shared goals,” added Bruce Borkovich, Supervisor of Big Rapids Charter Township. “It’s a testament to the commitment both the City and Township have to protecting and serving our communities.” Borkovich adds “The objective of the emergency services agreement was predicated upon determining the best possible emergency services provided to the residents of Big Rapids Charter Township.” “Currently, residents are charged 1.5 mills for the emergency services and the job of the board is to determine the best method to ensure emergency response in the future.”

Following the effective date of this agreement, current Big Rapids Charter Township Fire Department personnel will be encouraged to apply during the City’s open hiring process for part-paid firefighters through the City’s standard hiring process. This process will include an interview, background check, and physical. All hiring decisions shall be within the sole discretion of the City.

To view the agreement, please visit the City of Big Rapids Fire Department page at: <https://www.bigrapidsfire.org>