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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Central Communications Now Emergency Communications Department**

The Anoka County Central Communications Department, which answers 9-1-1 calls for citizens of the county and provides dispatch services for all 11 law enforcement agencies and 16 fire departments in the county, has underwent a name change.

The County Board of Commissioners May 26 approved a resolution that resulted in the new name: Anoka County Emergency Communications Department. Changing the name to the Emergency Communications Department clearly defines the role of the department for Anoka County citizens and county staff.

“We’re excited about the new name — it more clearly reflects the mission of our department, which is to promote the safety and wellbeing of citizens by providing efficient and professional 9-1-1 dispatch services for all emergency and non-emergency calls and to provide technical management of the County's E-911 system and public safety radio system,” said Val Sprynczynatyk communications manager of the Anoka County Emergency Communications Department.

The board is confident the name change for the department will lessen confusion about the services it offers to citizens of Anoka County.

“The board believes the new moniker will result in improved efficiency, simplified reporting and more streamlined operations,” said Anoka County Commissioner Julie Braastad, chair of the county’s Public Safety Committee. “We look forward to this department continuing its dedicated, crucial work under a new name.”

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