



Press Release for Immediate Distribution

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AUBURN CITY COUNCIL OPPOSES LOCAL AMBULANCE SERVICE'S PROMOTION OF 10-DIGIT PHONE NUMBER. COUNCIL BELIEVES PRACTICE POSES A RISK TO THE CITIZENS OF AUBURN.

AUBURN, ME. – At the regular meeting of the Auburn City Council on October 6, 2014, the Council voiced concern with United Ambulance Service's continued use and promotion of a 10-digit phone number to call in lieu of or before calling 9-1-1 for emergencies.

The Council believes this creates a clear and present risk to the community as it runs counter to nationally-accepted best practices. The promotion and use of 9-1-1 should be the only number suggested to be used to access emergency services and the suggestion otherwise creates confusion and a potential for delays in service.

Additionally, as the Auburn Fire Department prepares to assume EMS transport duties within the City of Auburn, United Ambulance has stated it will not transfer any calls it may receive through its 10-digit number for emergencies within the City of Auburn to the L/A 9-1-1 PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point) for dispatch and response by the Auburn Fire Department in accordance with the direction of the City Council.

The Auburn City Council is unified in its opposition to the continuation of an antiquated practice (the suggested use of a 10-digit number to call for emergencies), that puts the community at risk.

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