



# MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** December 4, 2023

**TO:** Chuck Gardiner Council President  
and the Munster Town Council

**FROM:** Mark Hajduk Munster Fire Chief

**SUBJECT:** Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Master Agreement - Resolution 2118

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## **BACKGROUND**

MABAS-IL is the sanctioned organization for coordinating mutual aid responses within the state deriving its authorities from statute (5 ILCS 220/5) Intergovernmental Cooperation Act. MABAS is an organization that provides the structure for a comprehensive and reliable method of acquiring resources when a local jurisdiction's personnel, equipment and training are insufficient to effectively mitigate an incident.

The Munster Fire Department has been a member of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) since 11/8/1999 when Ordinance/Resolution 1135 was adopted with one other revision in 2014 (Ordinance/Resolution 1647) that addressed FEMA reimbursement requirements.

In 2019 MABAS-IL started a complete revision of the 1988 Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Master Agreement to address changes in emergency response, certifications, and liability tort immunity protection, which are especially critical when resources are sent outside of the state of Illinois or received from surrounding states. Other important changes include a single agreement that is to be used by all state and allowing membership by Federal, State and local governments, as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The revisions also align the agreement with the National Incident Management System and Interstate Mutual Aid laws and provides for third party recovery under spiller pays, technical rescue recovery and patient billing. Finally, the agreement streamlines the process for individual states to participate in the MABAS system through a network of divisions within a state chapter.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Town Board of Munster, In. approve (by Vote) the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Master Agreement with local Resolution as detailed in the Background section of this memorandum. This was forwarded from the Town of Munster Board of Safety on 11/16/2023, with a favorable recommendation.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

MABAS Agreement Letter

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Master Agreement

Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Master Agreement Resolution 2118