

NEWS RELEASE: Dec. 8, 2010

Groundbreaking for Public Safety Center Thursday, 2 p.m.

Greene County will break ground on the new Public Safety Center Thursday, Dec. 9, at 2 p.m., near the intersection of North Campbell Avenue and West Nicholls Street in Springfield.

The Public Safety Center will house Springfield-Greene County 911 and the Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management. The building will also include an Emergency Operations Center, from which more than 70 federal, state and local response agencies may coordinate and sustain 24/7 operations during a disaster event. The building will also serve as a Multi-Agency Coordination Center for Missouri's Homeland Security Oversight Committee — Region D, which covers 18 counties in southwest Missouri.

The three-story, 55,000 square-foot building will be built to withstand an F-5 tornado and utility interruptions, providing secure workspace for emergency responders and state-of-the-art emergency communications technology used during disaster events. The energy-efficient building is designed to obtain LEED certification.

The \$19.7 million building is funded by a variety of sources, including:

- \$1 million FEMA grant, secured by Congressman Roy Blunt
- \$1.1 million in COPS Technology grants, secured by Congressman Roy Blunt
- \$450,000 Department of Energy grant, secured by Congressman Roy Blunt
- \$300,000 Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant
- up to \$1 million a year in voter-approved 911 Sales Tax funds

Speakers at Thursday's groundbreaking ceremony include Congressman Roy Blunt, Greene County Presiding Commissioner Dave Coonrod, Springfield Mayor Pro Tem Dan Chiles and representatives from the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and the Homeland Security Oversight Committee.

For more information, call Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Greene County Public Information Officer, at 417-829-6019 or 417-224-5510.

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