NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Jeremy E. Brady, Maryville Area Specialist Telephone 660-582-7421 (ext. #4)

PICKERING RECEIVES USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT FOR WARNING SYSTEM

Janie Dunning, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, presented a $2,420 check to the City of Pickering on October 29, 2009.

Front row left to right: Josh Hurlburt, Field Representative for Congressman Sam Graves, Brook Balentine, Field Representative for US Senator Claire McCaskill, Janie Dunning, Missouri State Director for Rural Development, Pickering Mayor Charles Smith, Linda Young, Donna Smith, Ramona Pennington, Back Row left to right: Jeremy Brady, Area Specialist Rural Development, Neal Miller, Rural Development Area Director, Bill Young, and Milton Sovereign.

The grant funds will be used to supplement $4,514 provided by the City of Pickering to finance the purchase and installation of a new outdoor early warning siren system. In addition, Aquila has agreed to donate and put into place a pole on which the warning siren is to be installed. This funding will allow the city to have an adequate and dependable warning siren to alert citizens in the case of an emergency.

The $2,420 in grant funds was made through USDA Rural Development's Community Facility Program. This program is available to finance essential facilities in rural areas.

U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said, "Safety and security during times of emergency and disaster is something that should be a priority. I am happy these federal funds will allow the city of Pickering to purchase and install an early warning siren to further improve safety measures and precautions for times of need."

U.S. Congressman Sam Graves said, "In Missouri, we must always be prepared for the changing weather. This grant ensures that the residents of Pickering will receive adequate notification in the event of severe weather."

"Financing essential equipment is consistent with Rural Development's mission and President Obama's commitment to the future of rural communities," said Dunning. "Our appreciation is extended to our federal elected officials for supporting USDA Rural Development. They have been strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians."

Anyone interested in obtaining information regarding assistance available through USDA Rural Development may visit the homepage at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/ or can contact Jeremy Brady, Area Specialist, at the Maryville office of USDA Rural Development at 502 W. South Hills Drive, Suite 103, Maryville, Missouri 64468 or by calling 660-582-7421 (extension 4)

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