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***For Immediate Release***

## **Kirkwood City Council Considers Fire/EMS Sales Tax for April 2015 Ballot**

January 8, 2015

**Kirkwood, Missouri:** A Fire/EMS Sales Tax initiative proposed for the April 2015 election was approved by the Kirkwood City Council at its January 8, 2015, meeting, and will now go to the voters on April 7, 2015.

The ballot language approved is as follows:

Shall the City of Kirkwood impose a sales tax of one quarter of one percent for the purpose of providing revenues for the operation of the Kirkwood Fire Department?

FOR THE PROPOSITION      YES

FOR THE PROPOSITION      NO

If approved by voters, Proposition 1 will be a quarter-of-a-cent sales tax that would be used for the sole purpose of providing revenue for the Kirkwood Fire Department to fund and maintain current service levels. If passed, it will generate approximately \$1.1 million in new revenue annually.

The proposed sales tax is a funding measure available to cities with municipal fire departments. In St. Louis County, there are 17 such cities. To date, Kirkwood and Glendale are the only two cities that have not yet enacted this funding measure. Neighboring cities that benefit from the tax include Des Peres, Clayton, Webster Groves, Richmond Heights, Rock Hill, Hazelwood, Maplewood, and Olivette.

The Kirkwood Fire Department provides 24-hour firefighting and paramedic services to the Kirkwood and Oakland communities. (The City of Oakland contracts with Kirkwood for fire and police services.) During fiscal year 2014 (April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014), Kirkwood's firefighters and paramedics responded to 2,626 emergency calls and 1,088 fire calls, including 53 fires that threatened more than \$24 million in property.

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