



## Communications Department

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### **Rave Panic Button installed at Municipal Building**

Jonesboro has become the first municipality in Arkansas to install the Rave Panic Button, a cell phone application that expedites emergency notifications in case of a fire, medical issue, police call or other distressful situation.

Mayor Harold Perrin and the City Council approved a pilot project for the application, developed by Rave Mobile Safety of Framingham, Mass. After a trial period the city will decide whether to keep the system permanently. There is no cost to the city for the trial.

For now the application has been installed on the cell phones of some key personnel at the Municipal Building. It allows those personnel to notify the Emergency 911 Department immediately while at the same time warning other personnel in the building of the situation.

J.P. French, a former Jonesboro police officer who is now director of strategic accounts for Rave Mobile Safety of Arkansas, said the application has been installed in all public school districts in the state under the 2015 School Safety Act. It now covers 250 schools, the 13 cooperatives, 1,200 campuses and 4,200 buildings with some 37,000 school personnel now having the ability to use it.

Garland County was the first government agency to purchase the system, but Miller County has also signed a contract.

“One of the best things to come out of these installations,” French said, “is that it has opened up lines of communication among the various agencies involved to share their emergency plans.”

The system allows an employee with the application to push a button on his or her cell phone, and that generates an automatic call to 911. At the same time the application sends an immediate notification to others in a designated building or area about the emergency.

“Getting the word out quickly would be critical in case of something like an active shooter in the building,” Mayor Perrin said, “but it also helps in the case of a medical emergency. For example, if someone should suffer a heart attack, a person trained to help might be able to get there to help that much quicker.”

The application provides other important information to 911 personnel, including the type of emergency and the exact location of the caller.

When the application was first installed in some Arkansas schools, French said, a large number of “mistake” calls were reported as designated personnel hit one of the calls buttons inadvertently. But the developer changed the buttons to require that each be held down 1.5 seconds to effect the call.

“Since then, we’ve had only one mistake call, and that was made by a superintendent sitting on his cell phone,” French said.

While the Jonesboro pilot project will be limited to the Municipal Building, E911 Director Jeff Presley said the city will consider an expansion to other facilities if the project goes well.

Further information about the application can be found at [www.ravepanicbutton.com](http://www.ravepanicbutton.com),

**Note to editors: J.P. French can be contacted at 501-400-2257.**

**Two photos attached:**

Photo 1 — E911 operator Jennifer Myers takes a test call sent through the Rave Panic Button system for members of the news media.

Photo 2 — Chrystal Glisson, office manager for Mayor Harold Perrin, shows the screen for the Rave Panic Button application during a test Tuesday at the Municipal Building.

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