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# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTS QUEEN CITY FUND EARLY WARNING SIRENS

In a Mock Check Ceremony February 16, 2007, Missouri State Director of USDA Rural Development, Greg Branum, presented a check to the city of Queen City for \$17,250. The grant funds, in addition to \$5,750 provided by the city, will be used to purchase and install two early warning sirens in the city benefiting the residents, and businesses in Queen City. The city currently is without early warning protection.

“Today’s announcement is great news for this community. This new early warning siren will help protect the residents of Queen City,” said Senator Kit Bond. “I will continue to work with the USDA and local leaders in our efforts to improve the quality of life for families in Missouri communities.”

Congressman Sam Graves said “As a farmer and member of the House Agriculture Committee, I know the importance of these dollars to rural Missouri. My office has worked closely with the USDA Rural Development and I congratulate the recipients. I am proud to have supported the important work of the USDA and I look forward to partnering on many more projects to benefit Missourians.”

Gregory C. Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development, said, “USDA Rural Development is happy to be able to assist the City with this early warning siren,”

Mayor Doug Watt is excited about being able to offer this protection to the area. “With the placement of two sirens we will be able to provide warning to the city of Queen City, and toward the Schuyler County Nursing Home and the Schuyler County R-1 School District.”

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo> or can contact Daniel R. Niemeyer, Rural Development Manager, at the Kirksville Office, 2410 South Franklin, Kirksville, Missouri 63501, or by calling 660-665-3274, ext. 4.



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