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# NEWS RELEASE

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$8,410 GRANT TO CITY OF URBANA FOR STORM WARNING SIREN



Pictured Left to Right: (if no title following name, they were local citizens): Leon Melvin, Rural Development Manager; Bobby Sharp, Dallas County Police; Nancy Messino; Jim Messino; Mike Rackley, Dallas County Sheriff (behind) Stephanie Ziegler; Gidget Jones, First Responder; Ron Grice (behind) Tony Foster, Fire Department board member; Greg Branum, Missouri State Director of Rural Development; David Rauch, District Director for U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill; Austin Owens, Field Representative for U.S. Senator Kit Bond; U.S. Congressman Ike Skelton; Bright; Donn Lancaster, Alderman; Debra Glass, Alderperson; Mel Gilbert, Attorney; Mayor Carol Walker; Kenny Childress, Preston Chairman of the Board; Denise Gilmore, Mayor Pro-Tem; Lynn Bailey, City Clerk; Erma Creach; Rae Sanborn, local business owner; Ursula Rhodes, Alderperson; Marilyn Long; Kathy, local business receptionist; Arthur Baldwin, police officer; Tina Gatchel; Ray Long; Jim Brown, Fire Chief; Dicie, local business owner; Zeb Dahl, police officer; Steve Kenall, Chief of Police; Donald Gatchel

U.S. Representative Ike Skelton joined USDA Rural Development State Director Greg Branum at the Urbana City Hall on Thursday, August 9, 2007, to present a Mock Check for \$8,410. The Rural Development Community Facilities Grant coupled with \$2,815 from the City financed the \$11,225 which included installation of the storm warning siren purchased to

protect Urbana's 407 residents. The cost of the siren includes activation by the Dallas County 911 system. Mayor Carol Walker accepted the mock check on behalf of the city.

"The new siren that has been purchased with this funding will improve the emergency warning system for the residents of Urbana," said U.S. Senator Kit Bond. "Where the federal government can help make people safer, we should and that is what has happened here today. I commend the local leadership and the USDA Rural Development staff for their dedication and hard work to make this project a reality."

U.S. Representative Ike Skelton stated, "As Missouri's Fourth District Congressman, I am pleased that USDA Rural Development funds have been dedicated to this storm warning siren in Urbana. Missourians are all too familiar with Mother Nature's fury. We have seen devastating thunderstorms claim property and lives. This siren will provide critical advanced warning to citizens of Urbana during tornadoes and other emergencies."

Mayor Carol Walker expressed her appreciation, "Speaking for our citizens, I want to say how glad we are to have this storm siren and we feel much safer."

"This kind of assistance mirrors USDA Rural Development's mission and President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities," said Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development. "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 seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Leon Melvin, Rural Development Manager, at 688 S. State Hwy B, Suite 400, Springfield, MO 65802 or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 4 or by email to [leon.melvin@mo.usda.gov](mailto:leon.melvin@mo.usda.gov).

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