

# University Park Among First Cities in Nation to Connect Fire, Police and EMS to FirstNet

## *New Technologies Expand Our Capabilities to Better Serve University Park*

UNIVERSITY PARK, Ill., July 18, 2018 — The Village of University Park is giving our officers, firefighters and EMS personnel a much-needed technology upgrade with [FirstNet](#) – a groundbreaking communications platform just for public safety. This move lets us take advantage of the early benefits of FirstNet, and it sets us up for continued success as the solution evolves. We want to lead in technology, so we can better serve the people of University Park.

FirstNet is the nationwide public safety communications platform dedicated to America’s first responders – available when and where we need it. Built with AT&T, in public-private partnership with the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority), it gives our communications capabilities a major boost, providing a reliable and highly secure connection.

By subscribing to FirstNet, we can help our first responders stay connected to the critical information we need. And it will help ensure we can easily and quickly communicate with one another during everyday situations, emergencies or big events.

“FirstNet is *our* network. It’s the future of public safety communications,” said University Park’s Director of Public Safety, John Pate. “It’s very important and prudent to have this technology available to use when disaster strikes, because – while we cannot predict when it will happen – we have to have the ability to communicate seamlessly, without issues, the first time and every time we communicate. FirstNet is the way of the future, and we all must make informed decisions, knowing what we’re going to do when disaster strikes.”

Our decision to join FirstNet was based on 3 critical factors:

- **Groundbreaking Technology** – FirstNet is the only platform that gives first responders always-on priority and preemption. That means we’ll have access to the connection we need – even when the network is congested. This will help us keep ourselves and those we serve safe and secure. We look forward to taking advantage of additional mission-critical capabilities as the technology advances.
- **Coverage, Capacity and Control** – As Illinois’s additional FirstNet build is completed over the next several years, we will have access to increased coverage and capacity. This will help us respond to emergencies in all areas of the state – from rural to urban. Plus, with FirstNet’s local control capability, we’re able to allocate communications resources in near real time to support our first responders who need them most.
- **Affordability with No Speed Limits** – We demand a lot. But we can’t pay a lot. FirstNet gives us the mission-critical capabilities we need with the affordability we require. In fact, were saving money compared to our previous service. And our access to the important information we need will never be throttled anywhere in the country.

When a major event occurs, it’s important to share data with other responders. FirstNet gives us a single network to easily communicate across agencies and jurisdictions.

“We took action when first responders said they needed better tools to keep their communities – and themselves – out of harm’s way. FirstNet will help first responders in University Park and across the country perform at the highest levels,” said Paul La Schiazza, president, AT&T Illinois. “We’re honored to play a part in that transformation and applaud the Village of University Park for helping to lead the way.”

“FirstNet is the exclusive communications platform built with AT&T for public safety, inspired by public safety – there is no substitution for this network that they fought for,” said First Responder Network Authority CEO Mike Poth. “We look forward to supporting the Village of University Park’s use of FirstNet, making sure it delivers what they need, when they need it.”

To learn more about the Village of University Park, go to [university-park-il.com](http://university-park-il.com). To learn more about FirstNet, go to [FirstNet.com](http://FirstNet.com). To learn more about subscribing to FirstNet, contact Dave Paluch at 331-385-5582 or [dp345m@att.com](mailto:dp345m@att.com).

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