

# 911 vote proposed by panel

By Tom Wall  
*Post Staff Reporter*

Voters should decide whether an emergency 911 telephone system is put into operation in the Greater Cincinnati area, say members of a committee advocating the system here.

The emergency telephone system would make it possible for a person to dial three digits—911—instead of seven to get help from police, firefighters or life squads.

HAMILTON COUNTY commissioners Joseph M. DeCourcy and Robert A. Taft II heard a proposal for how to finance a 911 system Tuesday during a meeting with Robert Reilage, Chad Rea and Donald Klekamp, three members of a Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce committee studying funding of the system.

Reilage said the committee recommends a two-step approach:

- Passage of enabling legislation by the Ohio legislature that would allow Cincinnati Bell to bill customers to cover the cost of the 911 system.

- Placing the matter before voters to decide whether citizens want the 911 service. If a majority voted for the system and the enabling legislation is enacted, telephone customers would be billed for the service, whether or not they want it. County commissioners have the general authority to place on the ballot countywide tax levies and bond issues to raise money for public purposes.

THE PROPOSAL calls for 911 service in Butler, Clermont and Hamilton Counties in Ohio and Boone, Campbell and Kenton Counties in Kentucky.

Reilage said the cost for a telephone customer would be 21 cents a month during the 26-month installation period, then about 23 cents to 24 cents per month when the system is in operation.

DeCourcy and Taft said they support the concept of a surcharge to the current telephone bills if voters want the system.

However, Taft suggested that another way to approach funding might be to convince the legislature to direct the Ohio Public Utilities Commission to grant a rate increase to Cincinnati Bell to cover the cost of the system if approved by voters.