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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE

4 June 2007

Jim Page
Executive Director
Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS)
1905 East Main
Urbana, IL 61802

Dear Jim,

The purpose of this letter is to enthusiastically endorse the ILEAS project for the (old) Champaign County Nursing Home.

The Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI) is the statutory State Fire Academy for Illinois and a member of the Governor's Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF). In both capacities IFSI conducts hands-on-centric training for firefighters, law enforcement, EMS and other First Responders. Seventeen of IFSI's courses, including technical rescue, HAZMAT and National Incident Management System (NIMS) courses, have been "institutionalized" by the US Department of Homeland Security as national courses. Some of these courses could be taught by IFSI in this facility and in conjunction with other DHS-approved national courses offered at the facility by national training partners.

IFSI conducts large-scale events several times each year. Each requires a significant number of classrooms, on-site food service and proximity to hands-on training. IFSI also conducts hundreds of courses for first responders throughout the year, most of which require specialized training props. The Nursing Home is uniquely positioned to provide each of these for IFSI.

A realistic vision for the new ILEAS facility would be to integrate it with IFSI, the Police Training Institute, (PTI) and other facilities and programs at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Together, they could create a national center of excellence for training, education and research to serve first responders and communities throughout Illinois, the Midwest, the nation and the world.

IFSI strongly supports the concept for ILEAS to acquire the (old) Champaign County Nursing Home. We look forward to working together with ILEAS to help create a model complex of interdisciplinary first responder training facilities and programs as part of a unique set of world-class training, education and research facilities in Urbana-Champaign.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Jaehne
Director