



CITY OF OAK PARK

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Oak Park Gets Upgraded Public Protection Classification **Rating jumps two places after recent independent analysis**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OAK PARK, MI – Thanks to Oak Park’s hard-working Public Safety Department and improvements to infrastructure over the past few years, the City just got an upgraded Public Protection Classification (PPC). A city’s PPC plays an important role in the underwriting process at insurance companies. In fact, most US insurers use PPC information as part of their decision-making when deciding which coverages to offer and what prices to charge for property insurance.

Recently, the Insurance Services Office (ISO) completed an analysis of the structural fire suppression delivery system provided in Oak Park, which is what led to the upgraded PPC. ISO is known for providing this rating classification for cities nationally, and they are also the leading supplier of data and analytics for the property insurance industry.

When conducting their analyses, they look at three categories specifically: Fire Departments, Dispatch Centers, and Water Infrastructure. After analyzing the three categories in a city, they give out a rating. The ratings range from 1 to 10, with the lower the score the better. This analysis is typically done every three years.

When evaluating Oak Park’s Fire Department, or in this case, Public Safety Department, they looked at the location of the City’s fire station and its fire apparatuses. When evaluating the Dispatch Center, they looked at the number of 911 calls for service, as well as average response times. And lastly, when they looked at Water Infrastructure, they examined the condition of the City’s equipment, water main sizes, and the number of hydrants the City has. After concluding this year’s study, Oak Park’s rating improved from 5 to 3.

“Our ISO rating can have a direct impact on whether a business or home owner chooses to locate here in Oak Park,” says Oak Park Public Safety Director Steve Cooper. “Our upgraded rating of a 3 is extremely significant as it relates to these matters.”

When asked about the upgraded rating, City Manager Erik Tungate said, “We’ve made substantial progress in the last few years. Oak Park residents can rest easier knowing we are always identifying ways to reduce the cost of public and private services on their behalf.”

PPC is important to communities and their fire departments. Communities whose PPC improves may get lower insurance prices. And fire departments who see an upgraded PPC can use that information as a benchmark for progress. The most significant benefit of the PPC program is its effect on insurance losses. Statistical data on insurance losses bears out the relationship between

excellent fire protection — as measured by the PPC program — and low fire losses. PPC helps communities prepare to fight fires effectively.

In short, this rating upgrade ensures that Oak Park residents can rest easy knowing that their Public Safety Department is working hard to keep them safe and keep their property secure.

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About:

Situated within the southeast corner of Oakland County, the City of Oak Park has a long history of being an integral, inner-ring suburb of Detroit. With approximately 30,000 residents in 5.16 square miles, we pride ourselves on the richness of our cultural diversity and our safe, secure neighborhoods.

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