



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
**STATE SENATOR**  
**MICHAEL O. MOORE**  
SECOND WORCESTER DISTRICT  
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## **MOORE, BINIENDA, ADVOCATE FOR LEICESTER FIRE STATION FUNDING**

Boston – On Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> Senator Michael O. Moore (D-Millbury) and Representative John J. Binienda (D-Worcester) met with representatives from the Lt. Governor’s office to advocate for funding, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), for the construction of a new Fire Station 1 in the Town of Leicester.

In the meeting with the Lt. Governor’s office, Senator Moore and Representative Binienda were told that of the \$8.7 billion received by the Governor’s office through ARRA for the Commonwealth, 18.2 percent or approximately \$180 million can be used for discretionary spending. However, the Governor’s office will not be directing any of this money towards construction of new buildings, including fire stations.

There is, however, \$210 million nationally in the ARRA for the construction of new firehouses, through a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) competitive grant program. Senator Moore and Representative Binienda have scheduled a meeting with representatives from both FEMA and the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security (EOPSS) to discuss the details of this grant, inquire whether or the Town of Leicester may qualify, and voice their support for the Town in their efforts to secure the funding necessary to replace the existing fire station.

“It is discouraging to hear that the Governor’s office will not be administrating any funding for the construction of new buildings with the federal stimulus money,” said Moore. “However, it is encouraging to hear that Leicester may have an opportunity to receive money through this competitive FEMA grant. It is my understanding that in order to be considered, the Town must be ready to move on the project.”

“This funding is crucial to the improvement of the Leicester Fire Department,” stated Binienda. “I look forward to working with Senator Moore and Fire Chief Robert Wilson to explore every possible option to ensure that Leicester receives the funding that they deserve.”

Earlier this month Senator Moore and Representative Binienda as well as representatives from the Leicester Board of Selectmen had the opportunity to take a tour of Station 1 and saw firsthand the numerous inefficiencies and problems the Station is facing, including its restricted access to parking and the station’s inadequate size. After touring the fire station, Senator Moore and Representative Binienda called Stephen Coan, the State Fire Marshall, and asked that he too take a tour of the building and see the predicament Leicester is in. Additionally, a letter that was

sent to Mr. Jeffrey Simon, Director of Infrastructure Investment, from both Representative Binienda and Senator Moore to voice their support for funding for the Fire Station. Mr. Simon is responsible for all ARRA projects in the Commonwealth. Lt. Governor Murray, Chairman of the Governor's Task Force Team, was also sent a letter of support when the Leicester Fire Station project was first submitted to the task force back in January.

“Our firefighters endure dangerous situations in the line of duty on a day-to-day basis, and should not have to worry about their safety in the station as well,” stated Binienda. “As in any emergency situation, time is of the essence and giving our firefighters the resources they need to respond quickly is imperative to protecting the safety of our community.”

“There is no doubt in my mind that Leicester needs a new fire station,” said Moore. “During the tour, I personally saw the dismal state of the facility and truly understand the urgency and dire need to replace the existing structure. This is a public safety problem for both the fire fighters who work at Station 1 and for the residents of Leicester. If Leicester is not eligible for this grant, we will be forced to look elsewhere in our efforts to acquire funding, but we will not give up until we get it.”

### END###