



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Department of Public Safety**

Ohio Department of Public Safety • Thomas P. Charles, Director  
[www.publicsafety.ohio.gov](http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov)



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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**April 26, 2011**

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## **Ellen Owens Appointed Interim EMS Director**

**(COLUMBUS)** – Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Thomas Charles recently announced the appointment of Ellen Owens, a twenty-five year veteran of the Department of Public Safety to serve as interim executive director of the Ohio Division of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Owens succeeds Richard N. Rucker, who has accepted a position with Ohio State Highway Patrol Operations.

“With her extensive background in the administration and operations of the Division of EMS, Ms. Owens is uniquely qualified to serve as the agency’s leader through this transitional period,” Director Charles said. “She is well-respected by the State EMS Board and her peers in the Division of EMS, as well as by the EMS community. I look forward to working very closely with her during the coming weeks.”

Owens, 52, of Ashville, Ohio currently serves as the Executive Officer of the Division of EMS. She began her career in state service with the EMS office in 1987, when it was a part of the Ohio Department of Education. The Division of EMS transferred to ODPS in 1992.

Prior to state service, Owens worked as a paramedic with Gallia County EMS in Southeast Ohio. She received her M.A. Degree at Morehead State University in Kentucky. Owens is currently certified as a paramedic and volunteer firefighter.

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