



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT

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**Public Safety Next Generation 9-1-1 Coalition Convenes in Washington
to Continue Advocacy Efforts**

Washington, D.C.-yesterday representatives from many of the nation’s leading public safety organizations composing the [Public Safety Next Generation 9-1-1 Coalition](#) - the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International, International Association of Chiefs of Police, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Fraternal Order of Police, Major Cities Chiefs Association, Major County Sheriffs of America, Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association, National Association of State EMS Officials, and National Sheriffs’ Association - met to continue its campaign to convince Congress to address the critical need for a lifesaving investment into America’s aging 9-1-1 systems.

Having achieved a bipartisan, bicameral agreement last Congress on federal funding legislation to modernize 9-1-1 throughout the country, the Coalition’s fire/rescue, emergency medical, law enforcement, and public safety communications associations have recommitted to advancing this priority and urging Congress to complete its work to secure the funding needed to protect the public in times of emergencies. Every passing day without action is a missed opportunity to upgrade the nation’s 50+ year-old emergency communications networks to Next Generation 9-1-1, matching the capabilities available to the public.

“We will continue our efforts to educate and inform Congress of the shared vision public safety holds to achieve true end-to-end multimedia-capable, interoperable NG9-1-1 systems,” said Mel Maier, spokesman for the Coalition. “We will continue our efforts to press Congress to fully fund a nationwide grant program to provide our 9-1-1 emergency communications centers with the ability to match the technical capabilities of the public. The public can send photos and videos to each other but not directly to 9-1-1. Modernizing public safety systems will save lives.”

“Congress has a clear opportunity to pass legislation early this year to fund the nationwide transition to NG 9-1-1,” said Chief Donna Black, the president and board chair of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. “We will work with our public safety partners to take action to better serve our citizens.”

“Legislation authorizing Next Generation 9-1-1 funding is a top priority for the Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA). Our members manage some of the largest 9-1-1 operations in the country, serving more than 100 million citizens. This one-time national upgrade would enable all our agencies to provide better, faster services to our communities. We appreciate the bipartisan, bicameral support for Next Generation 9-1-1 legislation last year. It is time for Congress to come together and help us make all of our communities safer.” Megan Noland, Executive Director, Major County Sheriffs of America.

“NSA proudly joins this public safety coalition in support of this much-needed legislation for the safety of all rural and urban communities nationwide. There is no greater need for public safety than fixing our critical 9-1-1 infrastructure. This is truly a one-of-a-kind, bi-partisan bill that benefits all of our citizens and first responders and leaves no one behind,” said NSA Executive Director Jonathan Thompson.

“The MCCA and its Public Safety Next Generation 911 Coalition partners have worked tirelessly over the past few years to secure the necessary resources for a nationwide upgrade to NG9-1-1. The Coalition has worked in good faith with Congress and other stakeholders to draft language that carefully defines interoperability and other key terms, addresses cybersecurity, and promotes stakeholder engagement. This will ensure resources for NG 911 upgrades are utilized effectively and efficiently. The MCCA and the Coalition remain committed to enacting this proposal, either via FCC spectrum auction authority legislation or another legislative vehicle.” Laura Cooper, Executive Director, Major Cities Chiefs Association.

“It is essential that Congress act quickly to ensure that public safety can take advantage of the NG911 technology that will allow emergency communications centers to transition from the traditional voice environment to a broadband-enabled, IP-based environment that will allow public safety to provide enhanced services to the public through receipt of pictures, video and other non-voice communication” Vince Talucci, Executive Director and CEO, International Association of Chiefs of Police.

“The nation’s 100,000 dedicated 9-1-1 professionals, serving communities large and small 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, deserve the same level of innovation and advanced tools available to the general public to perform their lifesaving work. This legislation would do just that, as well as ensure that public safety’s unique requirements for interoperability, reliability, and cybersecurity are met. We came very close last year, achieving bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. Congress must use the opportunity before it to finish its work and enact this legislation with the needed funding.” Derek K. Poarch, Executive Director and CEO, APCO International.

The Public Safety Next Generation 9-1-1 Coalition is comprised of the following organizations: Major County Sheriffs of America, Major Cities Chiefs Association, National Sheriffs’ Association, International Chiefs of Police, National Association of State EMS Officials, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Association of Public Safety Communications Officials – International, Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association, and the Fraternal Order of Police.