



September 08, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Schumer,

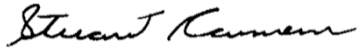
9-1-1 systems are critical infrastructure in every community. However, they are underfunded and technologically inadequate to address the needs and expectations of the American people in the 21st Century. The current focus on improving our nation's infrastructure provides a unique opportunity for Congress to make a once-in-a-generation investment to modernize our 50-plus-year-old 9-1-1 systems to next generation 9-1-1 (NG 9-1-1). While 9-1-1 operations are traditionally state and local functions, the investment of federal resources will ensure that all communities across New York, and throughout the rest of the United States, have a secure, resilient, interoperable, and reliable way of receiving, processing, and responding to requests for emergency assistance. Simply put, upgrading to NG 9-1-1 will save lives.

As you finalize the budget reconciliation legislation, we respectfully request that you allocate \$15 billion to facilitate a nationwide upgrade of our 9-1-1 infrastructure to NG 9-1-1. This funding will allow public safety entities across the country to implement 9-1-1 systems that are fully interoperable and can receive a variety of multimedia and other data from 9-1-1 callers. The ability to process and seamlessly share this information with first responders in the field will make emergency responses faster, safer, and more efficient. NG 9-1-1 funding will also enable the development of vital cybersecurity measures to help ensure these critical systems cannot be taken offline by cybercriminals or other malicious actors. Finally, it will support the training of 9-1-1 dispatchers and other critical personnel to utilize these new systems.

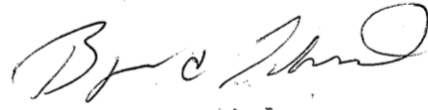
The \$15 billion we are requesting for NG 9-1-1 would secure the best outcome for our officers, deputies, and the communities we serve. A failure to fully fund this upgrade could have several consequences. It will further cement the current status quo of "haves" and "have nots" where help cannot be dispatched effectively in communities that rely on outdated 9-1-1 technology. Furthermore, it will inhibit us from addressing all of the existing challenges with our 9-1-1 system and fully capitalizing on the new capabilities NG 9-1-1 systems provide.

Thank you in advance for considering this request as you determine the final funding allocations for the budget reconciliation legislation. We'd also like to thank you for your continued support of our departments and the broader law enforcement community. Please do not hesitate to have your staff contact us with any questions or if we can be of any additional assistance.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Stuart Cameron
Acting Commissioner
Suffolk County Police Department



Commissioner Byron Lockwood
Commissioner
Buffalo Police Department



Commissioner Patrick Ryder
Commissioner
Nassau County Police Department



Commissioner Dermot Shea
Commissioner
New York City Police Department



Peter Kehoe
Executive Director
New York State Sheriffs' Association