



September 9, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

The Public Safety Next Generation 911 Coalition represents the leadership of many of America’s major law enforcement, fire service, emergency medical services, and public safety communications associations. This coalition formed over two years ago to advocate for a once-in-a-generation investment to modernize our nation’s aging 9-1-1 infrastructure. Next Generation 9-1-1 technology will make emergency responses faster and more efficient, first responders and communities safer, and allow public safety professionals to meet the needs and expectations of the American people in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The United States Congress is close to delivering a critical piece of public safety infrastructure that benefits all Americans equally.

Nearly a decade ago as Vice President, you championed a critical enhancement of public safety communications through the creation of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), advancing broadband communications for first responders. Next Generation 9-1-1 will address another gap in our public safety communications ecosystem by ensuring the capability for citizens to ask for help and for first responders to more effectively, efficiently, and safely do the jobs they signed up to do.

Fully achieving Next Generation 9-1-1 nationwide is estimated to cost \$15 billion. We respectfully request that you support including Next Generation 9-1-1 in the forthcoming reconciliation package. This will make 9-1-1 services more interoperable, less proprietary, and more resilient, and will ensure the services can be deployed throughout the country in an effective, efficient, and secure manner. Critically, it will also enable implementation training nationwide. While 9-1-1 operations are traditionally a state and local function, the investment of federal resources in this critical infrastructure will ensure that all communities in the United States -- be they rural, urban, suburban, or tribal -- will have a secure, resilient, interoperable, and reliable way of receiving, processing, and responding to requests for emergency assistance.

Under-funding this critical infrastructure would jeopardize goals such as cybersecurity, reliability, and interoperability. The nation could end up with pockets of “haves” and “have-nots,” which would undermine the universal trust in 9-1-1 and create operational issues in public safety. The funding would

ensure all communities can be supported to achieve the best outcomes and help first responders carry out their life-saving missions.

Our Coalition appreciates this critical one-time federal commitment to fund this nationwide transition to Next Generation 9-1-1 and respects the need to ensure that federal funds are expended in the most efficient and cost-effective way. We are motivated by what is needed by members of our communities as well as public safety professionals as they carry out their missions to serve and protect the public every day.

Thank you for your support of public safety and your engagement with the Public Safety Next Generation 9-1-1 Coalition.

Please direct any questions to Captain Mel Maier, Oakland County (MI) Sheriff's Department, at [maierm@oakgov.com](mailto:maierm@oakgov.com).

Sincerely,

Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials–International  
International Association of Chiefs of Police  
International Association of Fire Chiefs  
Major Cities Chiefs Association  
Major County Sheriffs of America  
Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association  
National Association of State EMS Officials  
National Sheriffs Association