



MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

S.4003 (Budget Bill) / A.3003 (Budget Bill)

AID TO LOCALITIES BUDGET

New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services

AN ACT making appropriations for the support of government

The Capital Region Chamber, representing 2,600 businesses and organizations from throughout the Capital Region that employ more than 150,000 area residents, supports S.4003 /A.3003, which would appropriate \$20 million to assist counties to begin transitioning to Next Generation 911 (NG911).

The Capital Region Chamber supports the governor's efforts to address the urgent need to modernize the state's emergency-response systems by implementing NG911 technology. Technology has significantly advanced with the use of wireless devices and texting, and our 9-1-1 centers need to be updated to be fully functional and reactive.

The Chamber respectfully encourages the state legislature to approve this Executive Budget proposal and consider future support. In addition to the \$20 million in funding, the legislature should also recommend that the state undertakes an expanded role in the management of the 911 system by building and operating a NG911 Emergency Services IP Network (ESInet) system to support counties in their historical role of managing 911. With NG911, the sharing of multimedia for emergency response is a reality only made possible through an NG911 ESInet system. Because ESInet networks allow for the transmission of high-bandwidth files, citizens in need can share potentially life-saving information with 911 operators through multiple media such as real-time text messages, voice messages, voice-to-text-messages, video streaming, and photo streaming. This enhancement in situational awareness would enable 911 personnel to respond to emergencies more effectively, resulting in more accurate data sharing between dispatchers and first responders, and potentially more lives saved.

When an emergency occurs, getting vital information rapidly to first responders can save lives. Investments in NG911 are of the utmost importance, as they will also improve 911 operators' ability to manage call overload, mitigate harm caused by natural disasters, and transferring of 911 calls and proper jurisdictional responses based on location tracking.

New York State must continue to lead in emergency response communications and provide support and guidance for interoperability across the state. New York residents deserve the peace of mind knowing that our 911 system is resilient, reliable, and functional. For these stated reasons, the Capital Region Chamber recommends the passage of this legislation.

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