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Nationwide Public Safety Associations Meet in Washington D.C. to Advance Next Generation 9-1-1 Legislation

Washington D.C.- Friday, representatives from many of the nation's leading public safety organizations- Major County Sheriffs of America, Major Cities Chiefs Association, National Sheriffs Association, The Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials, International Association of Chiefs of Police, International Association of Fire Chiefs, Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association, National Association of State EMS Officials and the Fraternal Order of Police, met to hear from Administration officials and Members of Congress, and chart a new legislative strategy to accomplish a once in a generation, lifesaving investment into America's 9-1-1 systems.

The Coalition was addressed by FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel, NTIA Associate Administrator Evelyn Remaley, Senator Amy Klobuchar, Representative Frank Pallone, Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers, and Representative Robert Latta. We are grateful for their active participation in our in-person event.

Our nation's 9-1-1 system is in desperate need of investment. Congress has spent tens of billions of dollars to address the "broadband gap" for homes, businesses, schools, and libraries. Yet, without investing in 9-1-1, these new broadband capabilities available to the public will mean little during an emergency. Modernizing 9-1-1 and delivering lifesaving broadband technology for emergencies must become a national priority.

The nation's leading fire/rescue, emergency medical, law enforcement, and public safety communications associations – composing the [Public Safety Next Generation 9-1-1 Coalition](#)- have recommitted to advancing this priority, and we urge Congress and the White House to deliver for the American people in 2022.

“The Public Safety Next Generation 9-1-1 Coalition has brought together a dynamic group of organizations who represent first responders across the country in order to improve 9-1-1 communications for our communities as well as the men and women who respond to all calls for

service,” said Laura Cooper, Executive Director of the Major Cities Chiefs Association. “This Coalition will continue to advocate for appropriate funding as well as push for the Coalition’s First Principles to be implemented into public policy. MCCA looks forward standing alongside our fellow first responder organizations to complete this project which is vital to the future of emergency communications.”

“I am proud of the ongoing efforts of the Next Generation 9-1-1 Coalition in advocating for a once in a generation investment to modernize our nation’s aging 9-1-1 infrastructure. It is imperative that Congress immediately works together to pass this legislation. Timely lifesaving response for all Americans is on the line. It is urgent to upgrade our most critical infrastructure. Without it, we will be unnecessarily jeopardizing the safety of the public and our first responders.” Said Sheriff Mike Bouchard, MCSA VP of Government Affairs

“The IACP strongly supports the important community building work of this Public Safety Next Generation 9-1-1 Coalition, and we call on all Congress to support the public safety use of broadband technologies and the work of this public safety coalition,” said IACP President Dwight Henninger.

“9-1-1 professionals should have the best tools available to perform their lifesaving work. We are pleased to collaborate with our partner public safety associations to pursue legislation that will provide the technology and training to achieve Next Generation 9-1-1. This will benefit APCO’s members, their public safety partners, and the public at large,” said APCO Executive Director and CEO Derek K. Poarch.

“It is time to upgrade the United States’ 9-1-1 infrastructure from rotary phone to smart phone technology. A nationwide deployment of Next Generation 9-1-1 will provide such an upgrade. Each day this legislation goes unchanged is a day lives are unnecessarily lost due to the shortcomings of our 9-1-1 system. I urge Congress to pass Next Generation 9-1-1 legislation without delay,” said Chief Kenneth Stuebing, President and Board Chair of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

“Next Generation 9-1-1 provides a great number of capabilities to the public in their time of need. It is important that Congress, especially the Senate, take action this year to pass legislation to deploy NG 9-1-1 technology nationwide,” said Fire Chief Don Lombardi, President of the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association.

The Public Safety Next Generation 9-1-1 Coalition is united and will continue our work with Members of Congress to ensure delivery of a historic investment in critical public safety infrastructure that will improve emergency responses and outcomes.