

COUNTY OF OAKLAND
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

MICHAEL J. BOUCHARD



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Undersheriff Curtis D. Childs
(248) 858-0146

Sheriff Bouchard Calls on Congress to Fund Next Generation 9-1-1

OAKLAND COUNTY, Mich. – April 15, 2022 – As tomorrow marks the end of the 41st annual National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in which we recognize the dedicated men and women working in communication centers across the nation, Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard is calling on Congress to fund Next Generation 9-1-1.

Next Generation 9-1-1 will enable 9-1-1 centers to receive a variety of multimedia and other data from 9-1-1 callers and seamlessly disseminate this information with other 9-1-1 centers and first responders in the field in real time. This advanced technology will make emergency responses faster and more efficient, vastly improve the safety of citizens and first responders, and furthermore, allow public safety professionals to meet the needs and expectations of the American people in the ever-changing world of 21st century policing.

“Our 9-1-1 system is the most critical of critical infrastructure, yet these systems are operating with technology that is over 50 years old,” Bouchard said. “Individuals can send photos to each other and video chat, but during emergencies these capabilities can’t be utilized to communicate with 9-1-1 centers. It is imperative that Congress step up and take the initiative to appropriate the funds necessary to update these systems across the nation. It will save lives.”

Federal funding is required to ensure Next Generation 9-1-1 is deployed throughout the entire country in an effective, efficient, and secure manner, and to enable strategic implementation of training programs nationwide. 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.

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