December 2, 2016

Rear Admiral David G. Simpson
Chief
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

RE:  Annual FCC Reporting Pursuant to P.L 110-283

Dear Rear Admiral Simpson:

This letter is in response to your office’s request for information in support of the FCC’s mandate to report pursuant to section 6(f)(2) of the New and Emerging Technologies Improvement Act of 2008. Information for calendar year 2015 is provided below and illustrates little to no deviation from the prior year.

Public Safety Answering Points

Responsibilities for public safety call taking/emergency services dispatching remain a primarily local government function. There are 134 primary public safety answering points (PSAPs) and 50 secondary PSAPs.

911 Calls in 2015

For calendar year 2015, there were a total of 29,417,934 9-1-1 calls across all mediums (wireline, wireless, VoIP and other).

State and Local 911/E911 Funding Mechanisms

State Public Safety Communication Surcharge Authority and Uses

The collection and allocation of the Public Safety Communications Surcharge is guided by state law. Specifically, New York State Tax law §186-f requires the collection of a monthly $1.20 fee for each mobile device and directs a portion of collections to the General Fund, which supports State activities, including public safety. Each year, the majority of fees collected are directed to specific public safety purposes. The FY 2015-16 budget appropriated: $75 million for county support of public safety communications systems or networks to support statewide interoperable communications; $22 million for Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services operations; and $16M for State Police operations.
In FY 2015-16, $75 million was appropriated in Aid to Localities to support New York State’s efforts to become fully interoperable. The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) supports the following grant programs through the $75 million appropriation:

1. $45 million for Round V of the State Interoperable Communications grant program;
2. $10 million for the PSAP grant program;
3. $20 million in capital and targeted grants.

The State Interoperable Communications Grant is a formula-based grant to counties to build out their interoperable network as part of their consortia. This grant also advances Next Generation 911 (NG-911) systems.

The PSAP Grant is a formula-based grant to counties to assist with eligible public safety call-taking and dispatching expenses.

The capital and targeted grants allow DHSES to direct grant funding to areas that urgently need interoperability upgrades, which expedites the creation of a fully interoperable state. These grants are also used for projects to connect consortia.

Local Fee Collection Authority

Wireline and VoIP Surcharge

All Counties in New York State have the authority to enact local laws for the collection of a $.35 surcharge from any service supplier (wireline) and/or Voice over Internet Protocol service providers that provide such services within a 911 service area, except that any city with a population of one million or more (New York City) may implement up to a $1.00 surcharge. Onondaga and Tompkins Counties each have authority to enact local laws for the collection of an additional surcharge of $.65, pursuant to County law §§334 and 335, respectively, for a total of $1.00.

Wireless Surcharge

Any City with a population of one million or more (New York City), as well as the 49 counties identified in County law §§308-a through 308-y, are authorized to adopt local laws permitting the imposition of local wireless surcharge of up to $.30.

The local surcharges referenced above are entirely managed within the local unit of government and are not reported to DHSES.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on behalf of New York State for the FCC’s eighth annual report to Congress.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John P. Melville