



**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**TO THE**

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

**ADVISORY RECOMMENDATION NUMBER 2013 – 12**

**Regarding Funding for the Deployment of Next Generation 9-1-1**

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**I. DISCUSSION**

The Next Generation 9–1–1 Advancement Act of 2012 (Act) <sup>1</sup> recognized that there are significant equipment, software and staff costs involved in the deployment of Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG 9-1-1). Governments at multiple levels all must all incur costs for NG 9-1-1 to work as envisioned.

Congress has also recognized that deploying NG 9-1-1 requires additional expenditures and established a grant program as part of the Act to aid in:

(A) the implementation and operation of 9–1–1 services, E9–1–1 services, migration to an IP-enabled emergency network, and adoption and operation of NG 9–1–1 services and applications;

(B) the implementation of IP-enabled emergency services and applications enabled by NG 9–1– 1 services, including the establishment of IP backbone networks and the application layer software infrastructure needed to interconnect the multitude of emergency response organizations; and

(C) training public safety personnel, including call-takers, first responders, and other individuals and organizations who are part of the emergency response chain in 9–1–1 services.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2013, Pub. L. No. 112-96 (2012), Title VI, Subtitle E.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at §6503(b).

At the time the Act was passed Congress was uncertain of the cost of the transition, and required a study of the costs to be completed by February 22, 2013.<sup>3</sup>

Due to the capital and operational costs involved, many governments have not transitioned to NG 9-1-1.

NG 9-1-1 deployment will continue to lag if the U.S. government does not provide significant funding assistance to the relevant government entities. There will be at least two consequences of this lag: First, much of the public will not have access to this valuable service. According to the FCC, “It is estimated that about 70 percent of 911 calls are placed from wireless phones, and that percentage is growing.”<sup>4</sup> The public expects PSAPs (Public Safety Answering or Access Points) and dispatch centers to receive and then disseminate the emergency information they receive onto the public’s wireless devices.

Second, confusion on the part of those contacting PSAPs is inevitable when some PSAPs can receive and process text messages, photos and video and some cannot. There will be many instances where the public will attempt to communicate with PSAPs in non-traditional ways, only to receive an error message return necessitating their making a second attempt by phone. In situations when time is critical, such confusion and delay is undesirable and may result in additional harm or loss of life.

## II. RECOMMENDATION

Given the importance of NG 9-1-1, we recommend that the Commission urge Congress to appropriate money to cover the deployment and training costs of state, local and tribal governments as a method to spur the transition. The Commission has made recommendations to Congress regarding the legal and statutory framework for NG 9-1-1,<sup>5</sup> but we think it should also be more active in encouraging Congress to provide additional planning and development funding for the transition to NG 9-1-1.

The IAC therefore recommends that the FCC encourage Congress to appropriate needed funds to assist in the transition to Next Generation 9-1-1.

Approved on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2013.

FCC INTERGOVERNMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

By \_\_\_\_\_

Joyce Dickerson, Chair

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<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at §6508.

<sup>4</sup> FCC 911 Wireless Services Guide at <http://www.fcc.gov/guides/wireless-911-services>.

<sup>5</sup> FCC Report to Congress and Recommendations, “Legal and Regulatory Framework for Next Generation 911 Services” (Feb. 22, 2013).