

# Advocacy Priorities for NG9-1-1 and 4.9 GHz

Jeff Cohen, Chief Counsel & Director of Government Relations

# The Need for Federal Legislation to Support NG9-1-1

# Key Dates

- **2004:** ENHANCE 911 Act - \$250M *authorized* for 9-1-1 grants; ~\$40M actually provided
- **2012:** Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act – established a \$115M grant program for 9-1-1
- **November 2, 2017:** Next Generation 9-1-1 Act of 2017 introduced in the Senate
  - **December 22, 2017:** Companion bill introduced in the House

# Key Elements of the NG9-1-1 Bill

- A comprehensive definition of NG9-1-1
- Requires seamless interoperability
- Takes a comprehensive approach
- Preserves state/local control
- Supply chain considerations
- Addresses need for funding

# The Case for Federal Funding

- Most critical of critical infrastructure
- Woefully outdated
- Ensure efficient, uniform upgrades throughout the U.S.
- Minimize need to maintain legacy + modern systems
- Accomplish goals individual states cannot
- End. Fee. Diversion.
- Build upon investment in FirstNet

# What Can We Do Right Now?

- Use the existing \$115M 9-1-1 grant program for proof of concept deployments that follow these principles, especially with regard to interoperability
- Follow APCO's guidance concerning how to best craft RFPs for NG9-1-1 deployments

# Preserving & Expanding Public Safety Use of 4.9 GHz

# 4.9 GHz Timeline

- **2003:** FCC designates 4.9 band for public safety use
- **2012:** FCC adopts 5<sup>th</sup> FNPRM
- **2013:** NPSTC publishes 4.9 National Plan Recommendations
- **2015:** APCO publishes 4.9 GHz Task Force Report
- **2018:** FCC adopts 6<sup>th</sup> FNPRM



## Why 4.9 GHz Is Important to Public Safety

- Uniquely-suited for broadband applications. Ex:
  - Mobile hotspots for ad hoc incident coverage or offload
  - WiFi on dedicated spectrum
  - Bandwidth-intensive applications
- Not replaced by FirstNet or other macro-network options
- Different from other PS spectrum (800 MHz, T-Band, etc.) limited to narrowband (voice) applications



# How to increase use and investment

- Frequency Coordination
- Expand Marketplace
  - Increase options for products, devices, and services
  - Make more affordable
- Employ proven spectrum sharing methods, provided public safety is assured priority and freedom from interference

# Thank You!

APCO website: [www.apcointl.org](http://www.apcointl.org)

Twitter: @GRO\_APCO

[gro@apcointl.org](mailto:gro@apcointl.org)