

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATORS IANNELLO, WROBLEWSKI AND MILLS**

**RE: RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE TO PARTNER WITH COUNTIES
IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE
INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK**

WHEREAS, New York State's citizens, visitors and first responders deserve a reliable, statewide, interoperable communications network that will ensure a prompt response to any incident; and

WHEREAS, New York's radio communication infrastructure is in dire need of replacement, as maintenance alone cannot correct the structural deficiencies and many of the current State systems are too costly to maintain and incapable of communicating with partner agencies and neighboring jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, recent attempts by the State to remedy this looming interoperability crisis have failed to yield positive results; and

WHEREAS, without a reliable statewide, interoperable communications network, the State has placed its agencies and partners such as local governments at a strategic disadvantage when responding to statewide emergencies; and

WHEREAS, Sub-Section 309 of the County Law authorizes the State of New York to levy and collect a State Wireless Communications Service Surcharge of \$1.20 per month, per wireless subscriber to help offset costs for radio system development and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, New York State uses this surcharge revenue to fund an array of programs, many of which have nothing to do with emergency communications, with very little going to the counties and their existing radio systems; and

WHEREAS, counties continue use what limited funding they have to develop, maintain and operate their state of the art radio communications networks and Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in an effort to protect their citizens and provide crisis communication interoperability within their respective counties; and

WHEREAS, counties have already invested millions of dollars to build a solid communications backbone which includes antenna towers and sophisticated communications centers; and

WHEREAS, current State efforts to build a statewide communications system can be viewed as duplicative as they attempt to build their system and then allow counties to tie into the State's network; and

WHEREAS, with additional State funding and greater State and inter-municipal collaboration, counties can partner with the Office for Technology and other state agencies to expand and tie together the existing local infrastructures to build a statewide communications system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature requests further examination into a cost saving state and local partnership in an attempt to create a reliable, statewide, interoperable communications network that will ensure the safety of all New Yorkers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to County Executive Collins, Governor Paterson, the New York State Legislature and all others deemed necessary and proper.

FISCAL IMPACT: Positive for Erie County.