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COLONEL
WILLIAM M. PALLOZZI
SUPERINTENDENT

May 1, 2015

Dear Police Chief/Fire Chief/Sheriff:

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) as an independent authority within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to provide emergency responders with the first high speed wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. The FirstNet network will be a single, nationwide long term evolution (LTE) network that makes it easier for public safety users to communicate during emergencies and on the job every day. The FirstNet network could be viewed as a bigger, more reliable, secure and resilient wireless data network. This new network will provide faster access to information and wireless coverage where public safety personnel need it most.

The FirstNet network will enable faster, more informed and better coordinated response to incidents. Just as smartphones have changed personal lives, FirstNet devices and applications will ultimately change the way public safety personnel and agencies operate. Imagine a day when one interoperable communications network can be used to dispatch police, fire, and EMS personnel from different jurisdictions all at the same time. Public safety personnel, emergency management, 911 Centers and others using the FirstNet network will be able to share images, data, video, applications, and access to databases to have a common operational picture as incidents unfold.

Maryland is required to provide FirstNet public safety data which includes device types and numbers in use, numbers of first responders and other information at every level of government. Other states and territories are required to gather the same information. Maryland, like all other states, will provide this data to FirstNet which will use this data to build Maryland's plan for our portion of the network. Therefore, cooperation with this comprehensive data collection effort at all levels will only serve to provide a more detailed picture of your current and future needs, which will drive network design and construction for Maryland.

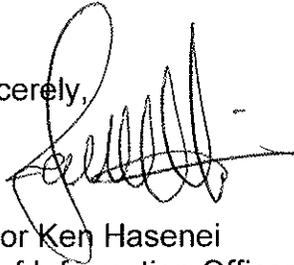
The deadline for this data national and statewide collection effort is June 19th. Again, your assistance in providing detailed data on your agency and its use of devices and cellular networks will only assist us in ensuring the design and build-out of an effective and robust network for all public safety agencies in Maryland.

FirstNet Data Request
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To assist you with this effort, we have provided additional information (attached) and also set up some webinars which will assist you in completing this collection and allow questions to be asked and answered. A similar request for different data sets has gone to your local 911 Center/PSAP. To learn more about the ongoing work on FirstNet in Maryland, please visit our website at <http://firstnet.maryland.gov>.

Thank you for your support with this critical task which will enable us to build the very best network together for all of Maryland's public safety agencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Hasenei', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Major Ken Hasenei
Chief Information Officer
Maryland FiRST and FirstNet Program Manager

Planning for FirstNet in Maryland

FirstNet needs your help

We are currently in the planning stage of “FirstNet” – a national effort to build a high-speed 4G LTE data network for emergency first responders. Commercial networks were not designed to support public safety needs, and they can become unreliable or overwhelmed in emergencies. FirstNet will give first responders the ability to communicate with each other at all times and in all situations using a network dedicated to public safety. The Maryland FirstNet team, under the direction of the Maryland State Police, has been working with Public Safety entities around the State to educate potential users on the benefits of a dedicated first responder network in Maryland and to demonstrate how it will improve communications and user safety.

How FirstNet will use your data

Now the effort is underway to design the network here in Maryland and across the country. In order to design the most effective network possible we would like every public safety entity in the State to provide information about their users and operational areas, devices, providers and procurement. FirstNet is asking every jurisdiction to participate in this process to help us get the best understanding of first responder data usage and needs in Maryland.

In a separate request, we are also asking County 9-1-1 centers to provide information about their emergency calls for service. After our analysis of this information is complete, it will be provided to your jurisdiction for your use.

What data FirstNet needs

The attached spreadsheet has the following tabs to enter the information:

1. Basic Demographics
2. Devices
3. Data Services
4. Current Provider

5. Barriers

The questions are designed to be answered with the input of numbers, yes/no, or the ability to choose from a drop-down menu of possible answers. Definitions are built into the survey itself, and there is a help and acronym definition tab included as well.

The spreadsheets are best viewed in Excel 2013, 2010, and 2007. If you are using Excel 2003, you can download the compatibility pack here: <http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=3>

If you would like to print the spreadsheets, please set your printer orientation to "landscape" for best results.

How to deliver data

1. Fill out the tabs in the attached spreadsheet.
2. Save the spreadsheet with the name of your agency and send it to data.collection@maryland.gov
3. You will receive an email confirming your submission.
4. **Please post your data by Friday, June 19, 2015.**

FirstNet is here to help

Our goal is to ensure that FirstNet in Maryland meets your needs as first responders, so your feedback and participation is critically important.

We will hold two webinars to walk through how to fill out the spreadsheets:

- **FirstNet PSE Data Collection Webinar #1**
Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 10 a.m.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6119362017342166786>
Webinar ID: 138-230-635

Dial: +1 (646) 307-1720
Access Code: 507-076-865
Audio PIN: Shown after joining the webinar

- **FirstNet PSE Data Collection Webinar #2**
Monday, Jun 8, 2015 at 2 p.m.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2590858779506717698>

Webinar ID: 148-485-203

Dial: +1 (562) 247-8421

Access Code: 833-480-107

Audio PIN: Shown after joining the webinar

Additionally, if you would like us to give an in-person overview of FirstNet to your team, we are more than happy to do so. Please contact Lori Stone, Acting FirstNet Single Point of Contact for Maryland at: lori.stone@maryland.gov, or at 443.622.9637 to get that scheduled. Please also contact Lori if you have any questions on the data collection process. To learn more about FirstNet and our work in Maryland on our website: <http://firstnet.maryland.gov/>.