



2018-13

**NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS SEAMLESS
INTEROPERABILITY OF 9-1-1 AND NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1 NETWORKS**

WHEREAS, members of the National Sheriffs' Association are responsible for the operation of many 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Centers (ECCs) throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, ECCs will increasingly become nerve centers, managing data-rich communications with 9-1-1 callers and first responders from routine calls to major events, acting not only as the first link in the response chain, but the critical hub through which all communications flow from start to finish of any incident; and

WHEREAS, the entire emergency response system should have seamlessly interoperable communications, meaning that a citizen can send information such as a photo or video to a 9-1-1 center that is capable of receiving, analyzing, and sharing it with field responders or other 9-1-1 centers; and

WHEREAS, ECCs should be able to receive calls and related data from 9-1-1 callers, hand off calls and related data to other ECCs regardless of jurisdictional boundaries, call handling or computer aided dispatch solutions, and share incident-related data with responders in the field without the need for costly after-the-fact integrations or specialized interfaces; and

WHEREAS, ongoing efforts to modernize 9-1-1 systems and ensure seamless interoperability will empower public safety telecommunicators to make increasingly critical contributions to the safety and security of the general public, as well as first responders, and will provide significant benefits to homeland security; and

WHEREAS, while ECCs are beginning to upgrade their systems to IP-based technology, such early stages of Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG 9-1-1) deployments are not seamlessly interoperable, with adverse consequences to emergency responses for law enforcement, fire, and EMS; and

WHEREAS, ECCs should have the freedom to choose whatever solution is best for them, knowing that doing so will not limit their ability to interoperate with other ECCs that choose different equipment and service providers or are located across jurisdictional boundaries; and

WHEREAS, leading public safety associations, including the National Sheriffs' Association, have in the past partnered in the Public Safety Alliance to collectively advocate for needed improvements to emergency communications.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association fully supports the imperative of seamless interoperability for 9-1-1 and NG 9-1-1 to help best ensure efficient and effective emergency response and save and protect lives; and

FURTHER RESOLVES, that the National Sheriffs' Association encourages the reconstitution of the Public Safety Alliance to work collectively to advocate for seamless interoperability of 9-1-1 and NG 9-1-1 networks.

Approved by the Board of Directors of the National Sheriffs' Association on June 18, 2018, at the Annual Conference of the National Sheriffs' Association, New Orleans, Louisiana. This resolution to remain in effect until June 24, 2022, in accordance with Article XIII, Section 6 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the National Sheriffs' Association.