



# Office of the Sheriff

*Commitment to Excellence*



**Dan Starry**  
County Sheriff

**Douglas H. Anschutz**  
Chief Deputy

May 1, 2023

Chair Ron Latz  
Minnesota Senate  
3105 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Kelly Moller  
Minnesota House  
509 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF2909/HF2890 – Public Safety Omnibus Policy and Finance Bill

Chair Latz and Chair Moller,

It is my understanding that the Minnesota legislative committees with the responsibility to oversee public safety may eliminate language that has significant importance to Minnesota's 9-1-1 network. I am writing to ask that SF2909/HF2890 be approved as written.


I am a 9-1-1 professional in Minnesota with over 29 years of experience in the operations and management of large Minnesota public safety answer points (PSAPs). I am a stakeholder in the legislation, specifically Article 6 – 911 Emergency Communications System, before your committee. As a key stakeholder, I have been involved in these statutory updates. It contains comprehensive changes that are long overdue. The 9-1-1 network requirements have changed significantly, and Minnesota's current statutory language does not reflect the current state. Updates cannot continue to be delayed; they must be done now to keep Minnesota at the forefront of delivering a sound 9-1-1 network and services.

Those attempting to delay the statutory updates provide a service for which their customers pay them. Nothing additional is added to their systems to deliver wireline 9-1-1 service, yet they have been compensated by Minnesota. This compensation is above and beyond anything reasonable. The current percentage of 9-1-1 calls made by wireline services is 8% and declining. Minnesota compensates service providers more than they do a PSAP who answer all 9-1-1 calls. I want to reemphasize, these service providers do not enhance their networks in any way to deliver 9-1-1, rather 9-1-1 traverses their networks they built for their customer and which they bill their customers for compensation.

Should your committee not be swayed by this logic provided to keep in Article 6. I implore that everything else in SF2909/HF2890 be approved. Section 11 Public Safety, subdivision 8 Emergency Communications Networks, (b) Transition to Next Generation 911, allocates 7 million dollars to support Minnesota's PSAPs transition to interface with newer technology, enhance cybersecurity, and ensure required data and system management.

I appreciate your attention. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) division of Emergency Communications Networks (ECN) is trusted with doing what is best for our 9-1-1 network and service delivery. ECN leveraged the 9-1-1 industry's best practices for technology, terminology, and initiatives to create their proposed statutory changes. This language was vetted in good faith with all stakeholders. It works and is ready to advance into Minnesota law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darlene Pankonie".

Darlene Pankonie, ENP  
Emergency Communications Response Center Manager  
Washington County Sheriff's Office