

PRESS RELEASE

Governor Signs Surcharge Legislation

On July 30, 2009, Governor Patterson signed into law the home rule legislation that allows Onondaga County to increase the 911 land-line surcharge from \$.35 to \$1.00 per month. The surcharge increase, if passed by the Onondaga County Legislature, would have a ten year sunset and the proceeds would be used to pay for first responder radios and equipment for the planned new interoperable radio system now being constructed.

County Executive Joanne M. Mahoney said that the surcharge increase is necessary to purchase user equipment for the new radio system. “The taxpayers who live in this County rely daily on our emergency services and were well served when the Governor signed the surcharge legislation. The radios provided by these funds will help ensure the safety of first responders by providing them with effective communication capability during emergencies.”

Commissioner John Balloni of the Onondaga County Department of Emergency Communications said that Onondaga County is working closely with the Statewide Interoperability Office to build a regional radio system in Central New York and the ability to fund user radios for first responders in Onondaga County is an important first step in building that regional system. Future regionalization of radio systems could provide the basis for a statewide communications system. The passing of this legislation marks a significant milestone in the successful implementation of the much needed radio system. It is very important to Onondaga County 911 and the 95 agencies they serve.