



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

Phil Mendelson
Chairman

Office: (202) 724-8064
Fax: (202) 724-8099

August 3, 2012

Dave Robertson, Executive Director
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Suite 300
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Robertson:

I write regarding an upcoming Committee hearing on the "Reliability of the District's 911 Call System." The hearing will be held on Thursday, September 20, 2012 at 1:30 pm in the Council Chamber of the John A. Wilson Building. I invite you or a representative from the 911 Telecommunications Network Response Steering Group to testify at this hearing.

The purpose of this oversight hearing is to evaluate the reliability of the 911 call system in light of two recent events: the March 3, 2012 failure of an electrical feeder and back up power to the District's 911 call center, and the June 29, 2012 derecho storm. The March 3rd failure resulted in the District's 911 call center being shut down for 23 minutes, while the June 29th storm knocked out a Verizon central office in Arlington, which in turn knocked out 911 call centers in several Northern Virginia jurisdictions. Similar failures occurred in Montgomery County and Prince Georges County, Maryland in 2010 and 2011. As a result, the Committee seeks assurances from the utilities and the government that the District's 911 call service will not become inoperable at any time due to severe weather. Your testimony will be helpful in this regard.

Feel free to contact me or Ms. Jessica Jacobs, Legislative Counsel, at 724-8038 with any questions regarding the hearing or to sign up to testify.

Sincerely,

Phil Mendelson, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

Enc.

PM/jj

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC OVERSIGHT HEARING
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004**

**CHAIRMAN PHIL MENDELSON
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC OVERSIGHT HEARING**

on

Reliability of the District's 911 Call System

on

**Thursday, September 20, 2012
1:30 p.m., Council Chamber, John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004**

Chairman Phil Mendelson announces the scheduling of a public oversight hearing of the Committee on the Judiciary on the Reliability of the District's 911 Call System. The hearing will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 20, 2012 in the Council Chamber of the John A. Wilson Building.

The purpose of this oversight hearing is to evaluate the reliability of the 911 call system in light of two recent events. On March 3, 2012, an electrical feeder to the District's 911 call center failed, as did back up power, and the call center went down for 23 minutes. On June 29, 2012, a storm knocked out a Verizon facility in Arlington. This, in turn, knocked out 911 call centers in several Northern Virginia jurisdictions. Similar failures occurred in Montgomery County and Prince Georges County, Maryland in 2010 and 2011. The Committee seeks assurances from the utilities and the government that the District's 911 call service will not become inoperable at any time due to severe weather.

Those who wish to testify should contact Ms. Jessica Jacobs, Legislative Counsel, at (202) 724-7808, by fax at (202) 724-6664, or via e-mail at jjacobs@dccouncil.us, and provide their name, address, telephone number, organizational affiliation and title (if any) by close of business Tuesday, September 18, 2012. Persons wishing to testify are encouraged, but not required, to submit 15 copies of written testimony. If submitted by the close of business on September 18, 2012 the testimony will be distributed to Councilmembers before the hearing. Witnesses should limit their testimony to five minutes; less time will be allowed if there are a large number of witnesses.

If you are unable to testify at the hearing, written statements are encouraged and will be made a part of the official record. Copies of written statements should be submitted either to Ms. Jacobs, or to Ms. Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council, Room 5 of the Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20004. The record will close at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 4, 2012.