

**DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS
TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY
RE: INTRO. 1158 / REPORTING ON THE ROUTING OF CALLS NEAR THE
BOUNDARIES OF NYC**

Good morning Chairman Vacca and members of the City Council Committee on Technology. My name is David Kirks, and I am the Associate Commissioner and Director for Public Safety IT Programs at the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DoITT).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on Intro. 1158, which would require DoITT to develop a report on the routing of certain cellular 9-1-1 calls as well as other information. While DoITT supports the goals of this legislation, we have concerns relative to the bill as written. We look forward to working with the bill sponsor and the Council on addressing the subject matter of Intro.1158 so that we can work towards solutions and ideas that fit within NYPD's operations over 911 and within DoITT supported technologies that support 911 call-taking operations.

The Administration is keenly aware of the challenges for telecommunications carriers in routing wireless calls to the correct public safety answering center. We share the Council's goal of ensuring the public has immediate access to emergency services in all of New York City through our 9-1-1 system, however, we have found that some of the data requested as part of this bill is not something that is tracked or collected, such as the number of 9-1-1 calls originating from cellular phones within the City that were routed to a public safety answering point (PSAP) outside the City.

The larger goal of ensuring immediate access to emergency services for the residents of New York City is one of several drivers behind the City's long-term plan to implement a Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) system and DoITT will be leading the implementation of NG911, working of course with our partners at NYPD and FDNY. A NG911 system will help address part of the challenge of routing wireless 911 calls to the correct PSAP by enabling the transmission of the caller's exact telephone location information (i.e. the latitude and longitude coordinates), which can be used for the initial routing of a wireless call to the appropriate PSAP.

That said, our agencies would be happy to have follow-up discussions with the City Council to discuss each of our roles in more detail to help you draft a bill that takes into account all of our concerns.

We thank Council Member Borelli for raising this issue, and we look forward to working with you to ensure the safety of the public.

I am joined here today by Inspector Richard Napolitano of the NYPD, and we look forward to answering any questions you may have.