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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 3, 2024

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science
Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science
Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Womack and Ranking Member Quigley:

I write to urge you support for \$3 million in funding for the Milwaukee Police Department's Public Safety Radio System Upgrade Project.

The City of Milwaukee's aging Harris Opensky public safety radio system has reached the end of its operational life. The systems limitations are compounded by unavailability of spare parts and service infrastructure. This radio system is no longer supported and the radio units are no longer manufactured, which makes it difficult to maintain the current system.

The radio system is the foundation for effective communication that allows emergency responders to perform their work to respond to and protect the safety of the community. The radio system is used to dispatch sworn response to calls for service. Sworn personnel use the radio system on a daily basis to receive assignments, report conditions from the field, and call for additional assistance or resources as needed. The ability of officers to communicate directly impacts their ability to quickly and effectively respond to calls for service to ensure public safety. Delayed emergency response due to an impaired communication system can jeopardize public safety.

The project will help replace this system with a new radio system that will be compatibility and enable communication among first responders and other non-city first responder agencies. Increased interoperability will result in better coordination to address public safety and emergency response. Such enhanced situational awareness will allow officers to make informed decisions, respond effectively to incidents, and engage with the community in a more transparent and accountable manner.

I urge your support.

Sincerely,


Gwen Moore
MEMBER OF CONGRESS