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Members of the E9-1-1 Services Board,

At the E-911 Services Board Work Session held on February 12, 2015, VITA staff recommended establishing or enhancing statewide 9-1-1 governance via legislation (GOV 01) and VITA responsibilities (GOV 02,) but did not recommend concurrent implementation of a Regional Advisory Council (OP 18A.) The concept of a broad-reaching stakeholder group is equally important to governance for NG9-1-1 as well as many other recommendations by the study for the future of Virginia 9-1-1. The Commonwealth of Virginia has recognized the importance of and established precedence for the creation of early governance, including multi-level, multi-discipline stakeholder involvement groups for many initiatives, projects and programs. VITA's recommendation to delay creation of a stakeholder advisory group is counterintuitive for comprehensive governance at this important early stage of the Virginia NG 9-1-1 implementation. There is potential for valuable and consistent stakeholder involvement at this stage of NG 9-1-1 implementation and for many other future matters that may come before the Board.

Virginia APCO requests consideration that the E9-1-1 Services Board establish a comprehensive E9-1-1 Services Board "Working Group" that will provide direct input to the Board for many topics related to 9-1-1. This group should be appointed by the Board and the group makeup should be dynamic, based on the current needs of the Board.

The recommended Working Group core representatives should consist of the following and be appointed yearly: One PSAP employee representative from each of the seven Public Safety and Homeland Security regions adopted by the Commonwealth (one PSAP representative would be appointed Chairperson of the group by the Board), one GIS subject matter expert (SME) representative from a locality heavily engaged in 9-1-1/GIS, one GIS representative from VITA VGIN, one IT/IS SME representative from a PSAP or PSAP parent locality, one IT/IS SME representative from VITA and one representative from VA Department of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH). As new initiatives, challenges, and workload of the Board arise in the future, additional subject matter experts should be appointed at will to this advisory group to provide essential, dynamic input.

Virginia APCO believes this approach ensures early and well-balanced governance during this important evolution of Virginia 9-1-1, while also providing a progressive, neutral, stakeholder-based assistance group to the E9-1-1 Services Board. We appreciate your consideration of this request and stand ready to assist the E9-1-1 Services Board with the implementation of NG 9-1-1 in our Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Troshak', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Richard Troshak, President