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September 2, 2026

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Support for A.9162A / S.7635B

Dear Governor Hochul:

As a Lieutenant who helps oversee the Allegany County Sheriff's Office 911 Communications Division, I write to express my strong support for A.9162A / S.7635B, legislation that would create an optional 25-year retirement plan for eligible New York 911 dispatchers and emergency communications professionals.

911 professionals are the first point of contact during emergencies. They gather critical information, provide lifesaving instructions, coordinate law-enforcement, fire, and EMS resources, and maintain communications throughout rapidly changing incidents. They perform this work while carrying the cumulative effects of traumatic calls, rotating shifts, mandatory overtime, disrupted sleep, and persistent staffing pressures.

A realistic career path would help emergency communications centers recruit and retain experienced professionals, preserve institutional knowledge, and strengthen continuity of service. The proposal preserves local choice: a public employer would have to elect to offer the plan. Supporting this enabling legislation does not itself commit Allegany County to local adoption or create an automatic financial commitment.

The New York State Senate and Assembly have passed this measure. I respectfully urge you to support and sign A.9162A / S.7635B when it is presented for executive action.

By signing and returning this letter, I also authorize the NY 911 Retirement campaign to publicly identify me, in my official capacity, as a supporter of this legislation and to share this signed letter on its website, social media, and campaign materials. I may revise or remove this paragraph before signing if I prefer narrower permission.

Thank you for your consideration and for recognizing the service of New York's 911 professionals.

Respectfully,

Matthew Graves
Lieutenant
Allegany County Sheriff's Office
911 Communications Division

cc: NY 911 Retirement, contact@ny911retirement.org