



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON DC

Mike O'Rielly  
Commissioner

August 15, 2018

The Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
CNMI Office of the Governor  
Juan A. Sablan Memorial Building  
Capitol Hill, Saipan  
Caller Box 10007  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Torres:

Thank you for your recent letter providing information on the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island's (CNMI) 9-1-1 system and related funding. I also appreciate that the CNMI has completed the paperwork for the Commission's annual inquiry on 9-1-1 fee usage in the differing U.S. States and Territories.

Based on your letter, the CNMI does not divert 9-1-1 fees since all monies to fund the system currently come from general revenues and not consumers. As the funding stream is expected to change with the passage of new legislation, I appreciate your recognition and commitment that any consumer-collected 9-1-1 fees will not be diverted to other purposes and that the CNMI will comply with current law on the matter.

Underfunding emergency communications systems can lead to significant public safety problems, including longer wait times, fewer or overworked personnel, and outdated or inferior equipment to handle the call loads. As you look to create an Enhanced Emergency 911/NextGen 911 Telephone Communications Systems within the CMNI, it will be critical to ensure that the necessary funding is available to provide your citizens with modern NG9-1-1 technologies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M O'Rielly".

Michael O'Rielly