

Media Contact:

Will Wiquist, (202) 418-0509
will.wiquist@fcc.gov

For Immediate Release

FCC CHAIRMAN PAI JOINS ORLEANS PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT'S CALL FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES TO COMPLY WITH NEW LAW TO SUPPORT 911 SERVICES

WASHINGTON, December 18, 2020—Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai today joined the Orleans Parish Communications District's efforts to encourage local businesses to transition their phone systems to support direct-dial access to 911 from multi-line phones systems. Likewise, he welcomed their work to promote public awareness of, and compliance with, the Commission's rules implementing Kari's Law and RAY BAUM'S Act.

"Nearly seven years ago, Hank Hunt launched a campaign to change phone systems so other families would not suffer a tragedy like his own," said Chairman Pai. "We are all taught from a very young age to dial 911 for emergencies. But because hotel phones required guests to dial 9 before calling 911, the calls for help placed by Kari's daughter never went through. Thanks to Hank's courage and dedication, Kari's Law was enacted to change this.

"Earlier this year, FCC rules took effect to make it easier for Americans in hotels, office buildings, and campuses to dial 911 directly and get help from first responders during emergencies. These reforms will save lives. It has been an honor to work alongside Hank throughout the years and an inspiration to see how one brave, determined person can make such a positive difference.

"The upcoming deadlines for the implementation of RAY BAUM'S Act will similarly speed up the response time for those dialing 911 in hotels, offices and campus environments. Requiring the provision of a more precise 'dispatchable' location, regardless of the platform used to call, will give first responders the information they need to locate callers in need. I thank the Orleans Parish Communications District for shining a light on these important deadlines."

Kari's Law is named in honor of Kari Hunt, who was killed by her estranged husband in a motel room in Marshall, Texas in 2013. Her then-nine-year-old daughter tried to call 911 four times from the motel room phone, but the calls never went through because she did not know that the motel's phone system required dialing "9" for an outbound line before dialing 911.

The direct-dialing obligations of Kari's law became effective February 17, 2020. The location obligations under RAY BAUM'S Act generally have implementation deadlines of January 6, 2021 for fixed services and January 6, 2022 for non-fixed and off-premises services.

The FCC has published [information](#) to assist stakeholders, including manufacturers, vendors, and owners of multi-line telephone systems, with compliance.

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Media Relations: (202) 418-0500 / ASL: (844) 432-2275 / Twitter: @FCC / www.fcc.gov

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

