



For Immediate Release

March 25, 2019

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Members of the PA Partnership for 5G Travel to Harrisburg in Support of Small Cell Legislation

Group reinforces how 5G access can improve public safety

HARRISBURG, PA – Representatives of the PA Fire & Emergency Services Institute (PFESI), Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), and PA Professional Firefighters Association (PPFFA) will be in Harrisburg on Tuesday, March 26 to educate legislators about the public safety benefits of 5G technology. They and other members of the Pennsylvania Partnership for 5G will participate in meetings with members of the House Consumer Affairs Committee, educating elected officials about the need for small cell technology, the backbone of 5G networks.

“First responders have the ability to do their jobs more effectively and efficiently as technologies evolve, giving my members the ability to keep them and the public safer,” said Jerry Ozog, Executive Director of PFESI. “Access to 5G networks will improve the capabilities of the new tools that first responders are using to keep the public safe, including body cameras, gunfire detection applications, or enhanced location-based services for 911 calls.”

While 5G devices and networks are expected to be commercially available in the coming year, Pennsylvania currently lacks the adequate infrastructure to access 5G technology. Currently, 5G deployment is dependent upon the rules and procedures set forth by each individual municipality in the Commonwealth, rather than one uniform and predictable statewide process. A statewide bill would standardize fees, streamline the permitting process and encourage an environment that enables small cell deployment.

New legislation is expected to be introduced by Rep. Frank Farry (R-Bucks) in the coming weeks. The bill, which would govern the deployment and buildout of small cells in the state, will be referred to the House Consumer Affairs Committee.

The work that first responders do is difficult enough. The Commonwealth has an opportunity to help make their lives a little bit easier, by passing small cell legislation.

“The quicker we’re able to establish a 5G footprint in Pennsylvania, the safer we can keep our communities and the people that protect them.” said Dave Chiaramonte, President of the PPFFA. “Legislation to support and simplify 5G deployment is sensible and needs to be viewed through the lens of maintaining and improving public safety.”

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About the PA Partnership for 5G

The Pennsylvania Partnership for 5G aims to educate different sectors about 5G technology and the infrastructure it requires. The Partnership brings together various leaders from a diverse set of industries and constituencies to help forge a technologically progressive Pennsylvania.

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