Position on Public Safety App Development

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Public safety communications technology is undergoing a major transformation to advanced, IP-based platforms. The introduction of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) nationwide network and Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) systems will enable the use of new applications ("apps") that will become essential components of emergency response. Accordingly, APCO recognizes the significant potential of apps to revolutionize the public safety communications landscape in a variety of ways. For example:

➢ Apps on a dedicated public safety broadband network, and in conjunction with NG9-1-1 call centers, will significantly advance the ability of public safety users to communicate with each other and with the general public.

➢ Mobile apps will also improve the efficiency of first responders, allowing them to complete tasks in the field that would otherwise require a trip back to central command. Public safety-specific apps will also provide first responders with access to content-rich information which will improve incident response.

➢ Apps will leverage the collective knowledge and experience of both the public at large and public safety professionals in ways never before possible, advancing the capabilities of the entire first responder community.

APCO supports development of a diverse, practitioner-driven public safety app ecosystem fostered through the collaborative efforts of public safety professionals and app developers. To maximize the benefits of this collective talent pool, careful measures must be taken to ensure that a vigorous and appropriate vetting process is in place.

APCO is best-positioned to serve as a clearinghouse for the development of public safety apps:

➢ As the world's largest organization of public safety communications professionals, APCO's members constitute the single most expert body of practitioner knowledge concerning emergency communications.

➢ APCO's rich history as an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards development organization (SDO) has engrained APCO with the skills necessary to comprehensively analyze public safety apps for operational and technical efficacy. Drawing

on its decades-long experience, APCO can ensure consensus-based open standards are integrated into app design to most effectively serve public safety.

➢ APCO's existing training, technical, and 9-1-1 communications center resources, as well as the collective expertise of its 17,000+ members, provide a unique forum for end-to-end vetting of public safety apps and app developers.

Accordingly, APCO is committed to playing an active role in fostering a robust environment for public safety app development.

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APCO International is the world's largest organization of public safety communications professionals. It serves the needs of public safety communications practitioners worldwide - and the welfare of the general public as a whole – by providing complete expertise, professional development, technical assistance, advocacy and outreach.