



TOWN OF CANTERBURY  
OFFICE OF THE  
FIRST SELECTMAN

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March 5, 2015

DSET Docket 13-01  
CT Dept. of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
1111 Country Club Road  
Middletown, CT 06457

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to voice concerns about the proposed revision to the subsidy of Regional Multi-town and Large Municipal Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP).

The legislative intent of Public Act 95-318, and subsequent actions of the E9-1-1 Commission, of which I was a member for three years, and OSET in 2004, was to encourage municipalities to consolidate small, inefficient PSAPs by providing subsidies determined, in part, by the number of municipalities served. The actual number of municipalities served by a PSAP is a very important factor in helping to increase and enhance consolidation and should not be eliminated as a contributing factor in calculating subsidies.

Excessive cost, reduced efficiency, and the possibility of lower service levels in Connecticut are serious problems for municipalities related to the large number of small, inefficient PSAPs. Similarly, the highly fragmented nature of this service only goes to increased costs and complexity to both the state's and the municipal governments. Why propose to reduce the subsidies of the largest and most efficient Regional PSAPs while not attempting to remedy the longstanding real problem of too many small and inefficient PSAPs.

Don't change the current formula for calculating the subsidy for the Regional Multi-town PSAPs at all. Instead, DSET should redirect its efforts toward studying and implementing a plan for the consolidation of the very small and inefficient PSAPs. The proposal of Public Act 10-125, passed by both houses of the legislature, might serve as a good starting point for this study.

And finally, Connecticut's PSAP subsidy policy has been effective over the years in encouraging nearly 44% of the state's municipalities to regionalize their dispatching functions. The financial pressure on towns brought on by the recent recession exerts itself in many ways, but it seems prudent not to falter in the face of parochial interests and relieve the pressure that may facilitate further consolidation to effect additional savings in local taxes. The current proposal by DSET eliminates the municipal count as a factor in determining subsidies.

These important factors, combined with the unfairness of DSET's proposal subsidy revision, is the driving reason that I recommend that DSET keep the municipal count as a major factor in determination of subsidies and thereby maintain the current subsidy policy into the future.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roy A. Piper".

Roy A. Piper  
First Selectman  
Town of Canterbury