

## **Barbara Neal Testimony Notes**

### **Senate Finance**

**4/4/2023**

#### **Funding Model:**

- The funding model is not clear and the impacts on existing, well functioning dispatch centers and the communities they serve is unknown at this point.

**Board's Position at March 13, 2023 Special Meeting:** Following review of an earlier draft of the bill that eventually became s. 139, the 911 Board recommended that before there is a final determination of where in state government the "dispatch function" should be housed, answers to the following questions (and potentially other questions) should be determined. This analysis would likely require the use of SME's and funding for same would be necessary.

- regional dispatch center locations and staffing
- funding model impacts on existing centers and municipalities
- labor union impacts
- regional staffing availability
- governance recommendations
- recommendations for technical and operational standards
- current statewide inventory of dispatch related assets and infrastructure

**The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety, Executive Director and 911 Board Chair have engaged in productive discussions on this topic and are in agreement that:**

- We see the possibility of multiple paths forward on this issue. Key to this discussion is common understanding of "what problem we are trying to fix".
- Working together, in full and equal partnership, DPS/911 Board can keep moving forward toward the development of a clear operational plan with associated timeline.
  - This work will likely require the assistance of contracted subject matter experts to fill in gaps in knowledge and we recommend the use of some of the existing grant funds for that purpose
- Expect that we would be ready to present the results of this work to the GA in January.
- In agreement that as this work moves forward, it is critical that all stakeholders are represented and have a voice at the table.
- The existing representative Board and its staff can bring expertise on multiple aspects of the discussion and can work with DPS as a full and equal partner to support and expand the stakeholder engagement aspect of the work.