

Testimony from Brian M. Daniels, Executive Director

**H 5596 – Statewide Public Safety Computer-Aided Dispatch and Records Management System
House Committee on State Government & Elections – March 1, 2021**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today. We appreciate the Chairman Craven’s leadership in introducing this legislation, which would improve public safety and enhance information-sharing and communication among state and municipal public safety agencies. We would also like to thank the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association for their advocacy on this effort.

In April 2018, members of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association presented to the League Executive Board about the benefits of a statewide Computer-Aided Dispatch and Records Management System (CAD/RMS). Our members were enthusiastic about the project and appreciated the potential benefits of such a system. City and town leaders recognize the value and importance of shared services, with numerous communities already establishing mutual aid agreements to coordinate emergency response across borders. Successful implementation of a statewide CAD/RMS would facilitate additional asset sharing and coordinate emergency response among communities, leading to greater efficiencies and improved public safety. A statewide CAD/RMS would also be cost-effective in the long run, lowering maintenance costs and facilitating regional dispatch.

This legislation is a good example of how the state and local governments can work together to the benefit of all Rhode Islanders. We appreciate the committee’s consideration of our views and encourage you to support H 5596.