

TONY PAYTON, JR., MEMBER

308 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING
P.O. BOX 202179
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2179
(717) 787-1354
FAX: (717) 780-4789

4509 FRANKFORD AVENUE
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19124
(215) 744-7901
FAX: (215) 744-7906

4621 NORTH 5TH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19140
(215) 457-5413
FAX: (215) 457-5417



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS -
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL/STATE
RELATIONS PA
ATHLETIC OVERSIGHT
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

CAUCUSES

PA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAUCUS
PHILADELPHIA DELEGATION, CO-VICE CHAIR

MEMORANDUM

To: All Members of the House of Representatives

From: Representative Tony Payton, Jr.

Date: February 2, 2011

Subject: Co-sponsorship: Consolidation of PA 911 Call Centers

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation that would instruct the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) to review whether a public safety answering point (PSAP) is necessary in each county throughout the state. My legislation would also instruct PEMA to consolidate county PSAPs into regional PSAPs, as appropriate, to reduce costs and ensure adequate funding for the Emergency Services Fund without compromising the delivery of 911 services to the citizens of Pennsylvania.

As you may know, the Public Safety Emergency Telephone Act of 1990 (Act 78 of 1990) declares that the implementation of a toll-free 911 telephone number, whereby an individual within this Commonwealth may gain rapid and direct access to emergency aid, is in the interest of public welfare and safety. Act 78 also established the Emergency Services Fund which consists of three funding sources: fees collected from every wireless service customer, funds appropriated by the General Assembly, and funds from private or public sources. In recent years, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency has publicly indicated the Emergency Services Fund has proven to be inadequately funded.

My legislation urges PEMA to lower costs by reducing the number of PSAPs throughout the state. My intention is that merging call centers will result in money savings in these difficult fiscal times for the Commonwealth, while ensuring that Pennsylvania citizens continue receiving swift and direct access to emergency support. Additionally, funding that is saved from consolidation could be utilized to provide opportunities to reduce the cost of college tuition for thousands of Pennsylvania students through programs such as the proposed REACH Scholarship.

If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this resolution, please contact Jorge Santana at 717-787-1354 or e-mail jsantana@pahouse.net.