

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Media Contact:

Natchitoches Parish Communications District

Willis Carter, Director

318-238-8301

wcarte@natchitoches911.org

Natchitoches Public Safety Delegation Voices Cellular Coverage Concerns with FirstNet Representatives...

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Natchitoches, La., September 28, 2017 – Representatives of the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office, Natchitoches Parish Office of Homeland Security, City of Natchitoches Police Department, City of Natchitoches Fire Department and Natchitoches Parish 9-1-1 met on September 26th with Ms. Lindsay Sclafini, and Ms. Kerri Brantley, FirstNet Outreach Consultants for AT&T's Public Sector Solutions, to discuss current and future cellular telephone coverage in Natchitoches Parish. Parish-wide cellular coverage is especially critical in preparation for the build-out of the long awaited FirstNet Public Safety Broadband Network. Underscoring the significance of this meeting is the action by Governor John Bell Edwards on September 27th announcing that the State of Louisiana would become the 24th state to approve this resource for first responders and extend an "opt in" notice to FirstNet, codifying the State's intentions to participate in the network.

The Natchitoches Parish Public Safety delegation is well-positioned to provide a high degree of operational knowledge regarding areas within the parish where cellular coverage is lacking and make recommendations regarding the proposed placement of up to four new and/or additional cellular transmitter sites. The group has provided additional coverage data to FirstNet. The public safety-first responders feel that the meeting was a proactive measure, which can help to ensure that cellular telephone coverage is adequate in the parish to support the critical mission of the FirstNet public safety network.

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About the Natchitoches Parish Communications District (Natchitoches 9-1-1)

Natchitoches Parish 9-1-1 is committed to providing fast, efficient and effective access to emergency public safety services for all the citizens and visitors to Natchitoches Parish. Since 1988 the "District" has served in a pivotal role ensuring the safety of residents and visitors to Natchitoches Parish by providing the support services, which connects the citizens experiencing emergencies with emergency services via the use of one, easy to remember and simple to use 3-digit number, 9-1-1. The Natchitoches Parish 9-1-1 District provides the equipment and systems necessary to receive 9-1-1 calls from the nearly 40,000 residents of the parish, as well as the ever-increasing numbers of visitors to the area. We are proud to serve as "Natchitoches Parish's Gateway to Public Safety Services". Find out more at

www.natchitoches911.org.