



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

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BROOKS DETAILS EFFORTS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY

Infrastructure Upgrades Made to Law Enforcement Communications System

Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks announced today that major improvements are underway to upgrade the County's law enforcement communications system and enhance public safety in the community.

*"Public safety is government's most important responsibility," said **Brooks**. "By upgrading the infrastructure of our communications system, we are giving law enforcement the tools they need to do their jobs and protect our residents and families."*

The existing communications system is 20 years old. Six new and two replacement antennas throughout the County have been installed to improve coverage and allow for faster response times. In addition to improving the system's infrastructure, the project will replace the outdated one-way paging system with a two-way paging system, which will include portable radios and mobile vehicle radios for every law enforcement agency in Monroe County.

The new two-way paging system, radio communications and mobile digital technology enhance law enforcement's ability to receive calls from 9-1-1 through text messaging in their patrol cars. This project also improves the lines of direct communication between the Sheriff's Department, City, Town and Village police officers, as well as state and federal partners, in a common emergency.

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 and natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina showed the challenges public safety officials can face in the event of an emergency. In response to these challenges, public safety advisory groups have called for communities to upgrade their communications systems. In addition, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) also set new requirements for all public safety communications systems. These improvements will make the local system FCC compliant.

*"Monroe County is recognized for our high level of cooperation on public safety. These improvements are the result of significant county-wide collaboration, involving all levels of government, and local police, fire and EMS. I would like to thank all our partners for their hard work and support in moving this project forward and protecting the citizens of our community," **Brooks** concluded.*

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