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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Peter E. O'Rourke

April 18, 2013

Director Letitia A. Long
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
7500 GEOINT Drive
Springfield, Virginia 22150-7500

Dear Director Long:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the National Alliance for Public Safety GIS Foundation (NAPSG), I would like to express our organization's and the broader public safety community's strong support for the continued and expanded availability of the HSIP Gold & HSIP-Navteq state release data sets.

On April 19, 2011, NAPSG wrote a letter to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, commending NGA for its dedication to improving public safety capabilities by making these data sets available. To better understand this improvement in capabilities, NAPSG recently conducted a survey of over 200 public safety agencies and individuals. The survey results are posted on the NAPSG website, but to summarize some key points:

- 72% of respondents represented state, county or local agencies – across more than 27 states.
- Respondents stated that they use these data sets for preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation and across multiple other emergency support functions. This shows the significant impact these data are having in protecting citizens.
- 85% of local agencies stated that access to the data would make them more effective in protecting the public.
- Examples of how these data are used include – hazmat response planning, mutual aid, IMT deployment, gap analysis, patient transportation routing, gas station locations and many more.
- A primary conclusion is that incidents are unpredictable; these consistent data sets are a crucial unifier.

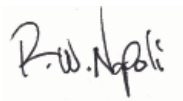
There is no question as to whether the HSIP-Navteq and Gold data sets are a highly valuable and needed tool for state and local public safety agencies. As just one practical example, the ongoing and successful response to Super Storm Sandy was due in part to the utilization of these data sets by the Fire Department of New York as it coordinated its response to jurisdictions outside its territory – like to Binghamton, NY.

Importantly, FDNY had prior experience with these data sets, well in advance of Sandy, further ensuring it was prepared to utilize the data in a live incident. This need for familiarity and training was corroborated by results in our survey whereby the vast majority of public safety asked for early, hands-on training with these data sets.

NAPSG strongly encourages not only the continued access to these data, but an expanded distribution to even more agencies across all levels of government. NAPSG stands ready to assist NGA and its partners in any way to both improve access to and training with these data sets.

NAPSG appreciates the outstanding effort already made by NGA in the release of these data sets. We look forward to continued cooperation between NGA and NAPSG. Please contact NAPSG Executive Director, Peter O'Rourke, if you have any questions regarding this matter. He can be reached by e-mail at porourke@publicsafetygis.org or by phone at 202-895-1711.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Napoli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a clear "Napoli" following.

Rand Napoli, Chairman
NAPSG Foundation

cc:

Steve Alness, NGA

John Googasian, NGA

George Thomas, NGA

David Alexander, DHS

Dan Cotter, DHS

Chris Vaughn, FEMA