



Union County Public Information Office

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News Release

Union County First in U.S. to Utilize New Technology

November 26, 2013, Monroe, NC – This fall, Union County will become the first in America to launch innovative new 911 technology allowing citizens to send pictures or video of criminal activity directly to 911 dispatchers via their mobile phones. The technology will give police officers nearly instant access to pictures or videos of suspects, suspicious vehicles, or even kidnapping victims.

“We are very proud to announce the technology of the future is available right now in Union County,” said Union County Emergency Communications Director Larry Brinker. “Emergency texting, photo uploads, and video transfers from nearly any phone can be distributed immediately to field units.”

Congressman Robert Pittenger (NC-09) and Union County Sheriff Eddie Cathey will host a statewide briefing and demonstration of the new technology on Monday, Dec. 2 at 10:30 a.m. at the Union County Government Center in Monroe. Media is invited to cover the event.

“Union County has turned the smart phone in your pocket into a crime fighting tool, and has launched this new technology at no cost to taxpayers,” commented Congressman Pittenger. “As a public service, I’m hosting this briefing so more law enforcement agencies can learn from Union County’s forward-thinking experience.”

North Carolina Department of Public Safety Secretary Frank Perry, Representative Craig Horn, and Representative Mark Brody will attend, along with representatives of various 911 systems across North Carolina.

“This is something that will benefit every citizen, as well as every public safety agency,” said Union County Sheriff Eddie Cathey.

“NextGen represents nearly real-time intelligence and reporting capability,” said Union County Chief Deputy Ben Bailey. “This service will enable us to be more effective in the field as a result of the rapid exchange of information.”

Media planning to cover the event should contact Jamie Bowers 704-365-6234 or jamie.bowers@mail.house.gov) in order to be included in the technology demonstration.