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ASSISTANT WHIP FOR THE HOUSE
REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

August 10, 2022

Charles F. Sams, III, Director
National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Director Sams:

As the representative for New York's 11th congressional district, I proudly represent all of Staten Island and neighborhoods of Brooklyn - areas of New York that include or are adjacent to, iconic national parks including Fort Wadsworth, Floyd Bennett Field, and the Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island. My constituents who live and work near these landmarks, not to mention the millions of annual park visitors, are bravely protected by the United States Park Police (USPP).

One of the fundamental lessons learned from the terrorist attacks of September 11th is the critical nature of law enforcement communications and how vitally important operable radio systems are to the mission of protecting people and property. Most responsible law enforcement agencies regularly update their communications equipment with state-of-the-art radio systems.

Unfortunately, the National Park Service (NPS) has not seen fit to update radios used by officers of the USPP. As a result, most USPP officers in my district are using radios that are 12 years old and which parts required for repairs haven't been on the market for nearly five years, forcing NPS to purchase replacement parts on eBay's secondary market.

One USPP officer in New York recently shared with me that the radio system is so antiquated that Staten Island officers are *frequently* unable to hear officers requesting backup or EMS services because of radio failure. Because of this, the safety of my constituents and the officers themselves, along with the care of our iconic national landmarks, are in jeopardy.

It is my understanding that approximately 350 USPP officers are currently operating with this outdated and nearly worthless equipment, despite the NPS having an annual budget of \$2.76 billion. A new radio system for these officers, something they should have been provided years ago, can easily be funded without significant impact on any other NPS program or project.

Please let me know by October 1, 2022, if and when the new radios will be assigned to all 350 officers of the USPP. The safety of my constituents, and the millions of annual visitors to our federal parks, are in the balance.

Sincerely,



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress