

THE MONROE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

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FLAWED ALBANY REVIEW REPRESENTS FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE OF OPINION ON SIZE AND COST OF GOVERNMENT

Comptroller's Report suggests no substantive reforms to Monroe Safety & Security Systems, LDC; County confirms project's ability to save tax dollars and lives in our community

Monroe County today released a response to another baseless and deeply flawed draft audit performed by the Office of New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli. The review centers on Monroe County Safety and Security Systems, LDC (M3SLDC), a public private partnership developed to provide first responders with state-of-the-art public safety communications technologies, all while saving local tax dollars. Today's draft audit represents the third such unsubstantiated and unnecessary review of a Monroe County function in the past year alone.

"This audit, the third of its kind in the past year alone, represents a fundamental difference of opinion when it comes to the size and cost of government," said Monroe County Chief Financial Officer **Scott Adair**. *"Mr. DiNapoli's unnecessary reviews of successful public private partnerships suggest that he is hostile to utilizing the efficiency and ingenuity of the private sector to protect taxpayers and reduce the size of government. The LDC model was actually established in law by New York State government to allow local governments to do exactly what Monroe County is doing right now – take on important projects, while achieving savings for taxpayers."*

When contacted by the Comptroller's Office, Monroe County again welcomed the opportunity to confirm the success of a public private partnership to upgrade its regional public safety communications systems, while protecting local taxpayers. The Comptroller's sole stated goal for this, its most recent irrelevant audit, was to conclude, *"whether or not the County's use of a Local Development Corporation to procure public safety and security systems and services was in the best interests of County taxpayers."*

A legitimate review of the cost-savings associated with the establishment and operation of MS3LDC confirms it was indeed in the best interest of Monroe County taxpayers.

"The Monroe County Safety and Security Systems Local Development Corporation was developed to provide our area's first responders with state-of-the-art public safety communications technologies, while producing significant savings for local taxpayers," continued **Adair**. *"Not only does the LDC model ensure that our emergency responders are operating with cutting-edge equipment, helping to save lives, it will also save local taxpayers a projected \$10 million. That the Comptroller's Office was unable to provide Monroe County with any substantive recommendations or reforms speaks to the project's effectiveness."*

Monroe County will soon issue an official response to the Comptroller's Office, stating that the report, like its predecessors, was poorly executed, unprofessional, and irrelevant as a whole. The following outlines the main points of the County's forthcoming response to the report:

- 1. The County followed a State-prescribed competitive process to select a vendor for public safety and security systems. The Comptroller's own audit concedes that Monroe County had gone above and beyond State procurement requirements.**
- 2. The County's public private partnership to deliver state of the art communications technologies to area first responders will save local taxpayers a projected \$10 million.**
- 3. The report fails to suggest any productive reforms to the LDC model, confirming its effectiveness in improving quality and achieving savings.**
- 4. The LDC is a bipartisan model which, by order of the Monroe County Administration, complies with open meetings laws and freedom of information requirements, to ensure transparency and accountability.**

The full draft Comptroller's Office report is attached.

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