

**GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
LA FORTALEZA
SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO**

Administrative Bulletin No. EO-2019-051

EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO, HON. WANDA VÁZQUEZ GARCED TO ESTABLISH THE PUERTO RICO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

WHEREAS: It is a priority for the Government of Puerto Rico to carry out its responsibility of ensuring the safety and wellness of its citizens by providing essential services, those of which certainly include telecommunications.

WHEREAS: Telecommunications constitute an important resource for emergency management and public safety agencies, when facing emergencies and natural disasters.

WHEREAS: In accordance with Act. No.5-2018, as amended, it is public policy for the Government of Puerto Rico to recognize telecommunications as an essential service. To that end, the provision of such service is of high public interest.

WHEREAS: The events of Hurricanes Irma and María on September 2017, further exemplify the need of an effective governance of the communications sector, particularly in emergency scenarios.

WHEREAS: Our Island suffered catastrophic damage, as well as a simultaneous collapse of all communications systems. During that time the importance of telecommunications as a mean for protecting lives and property became evident.

WHEREAS: The National Security Act of 2002 requires the United States Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") to develop a national emergency communications plan. The National Emergency Communications Plan, among other things, establishes interoperability levels in a manner consistent with the state plan.

WHEREFORE: I, WANDA VÁZQUEZ GARCED, Governor of Puerto Rico, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of Puerto Rico, hereby declare and order the following:

SECTION 1: The creation and establishment of the Emergency Communications Executive Committee. This Committee shall be dedicated to the development, coordination and implementation of policies, plans, regulations, programs and services related to telecommunications.

SECTION 2: The Committee shall be composed of the following:

- A. Puerto Rico Department of Public Safety (DPS)
 - Puerto Rico Police Bureau

Wanda Vázquez Garced
Wanda

- Emergency Management and Disaster Administration Bureau (PREMA)
- Bureau of the Firefighters Corps
- Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
- 9-1-1 Emergency System Bureau
- B. One representative from the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC)
- C. The Puerto Rico Telecommunications Bureau
- D. Puerto Rico Ports Authority
- E. Puerto Rico Department of Transportation and Public Works
- F. One representative from the Puerto Rico Broadcasters Association
- G. Puerto Rico Power Authority
- H. The Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority
- I. The Chief Innovation & Information Officer for the Government of Puerto Rico
- J. Representatives from each PREMA Regions.
- K. Puerto Rico Planning Board
- L. One representative from the Puerto Rico National Guard
- M. Any other person, non-governmental representative, agency or public instrumentality that the Governor deems necessary in order to comply with the herein ordered.

SECTION 3: Each of the agencies or public instrumentalities that make up the Committee shall appoint a representative to appear at Committee meetings. Representatives shall exercise their position *ad honorem* and at the discretion of the Governor. Representatives must have decision-making authority.

SECTION 4: The Committee will be chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety. The Committee will meet no less than six (6) times a year. The Chairman may convene the meetings and a simple majority of the members shall constitute *quorum*. Likewise, the Committee may invite federal agencies or other entities as deemed necessary to serve in an advisory non-voting role within the Committee.

SECTION 5: The Committee shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Develop, review, modify and enact, a comprehensive public safety telecommunications strategy in Puerto Rico. This will include, but not be limited to, landlines, mobile radio, video, broadband, current and Next Generation 9-1-1, and any other telecommunications system in Puerto Rico.

- 
2. Ensure that the efforts and initiatives of the Committee at local, regional and federal levels, are aligned with the Puerto Rico Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan and National Emergency Communications Plan.
 3. Promote cooperation between Puerto Rico and federal agencies in addressing island-wide communications.
 4. Review the priorities for island-wide communication needs and assist in the development of projects, plans, policies, standards, priorities, and guidelines in communications.
 5. Identify and implement the recommendations made by the Committee.
 6. Implement procedures to address emergency situations, including an expedited process to allow permits or waivers.
 7. Engage in memoranda of understanding with other entities to guarantee the provisions of services before, during and after any emergency or disaster.
 8. Designate subcommittees of working groups to address specific issues or projects, as deemed necessary to fulfill the herein ordered.
 9. Adopt policies, protocols and regulations for the Committee and establish internal operations rules for the Committee sub-committee or working groups.

SECTION 6: The Committee shall have one hundred and eighty (180) days to submit a report on the Strategic Communications Plan for Emergency Situations to the Governor. Said report must be reviewed and supplemented annually.

SECTION 7: All agencies and public instrumentalities shall collaborate with Committee efforts and provide all necessary information and resources, in accordance with its fiscal capacity and mission, in order to fulfill the obligations assigned to the Committee. With the sole purpose of complying with the herein ordered, the agencies shall exercise their authority and discretion while instructing employees to provide the necessary support to the Committee.

SECTION 8: The Committee shall be responsible for identifying relevant grant programs as well as any other financing sources to improve communications in Puerto Rico.

SECTION 9: All Puerto Rico agencies shall cooperate with the tasks of the Committee and provide the information and resources necessary for the Committee to perform its obligations, in accordance with their fiscal capacity and mission. The agencies will use their authority and discretion to direct employees to provide the necessary support to

the Committee in order to comply with the provisions of this Executive Order.

SECTION 10: SEPARABILITY. The provisions of this Executive Order are independent of each other and if a court with jurisdiction were to declare any part of this Executive order unconstitutional, null or void, such determination shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force.

SECTION 11: REPEAL. This Executive Order voids any other executive order that, in whole or in part, results incompatible with the provisions herein, to the extent that such incompatibility exists.

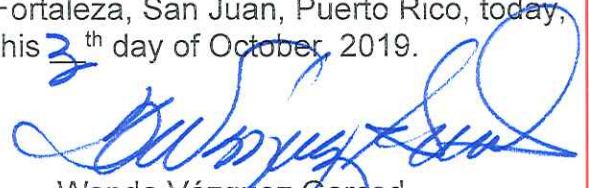
SECTION 12: NO CREATION OF ACTIONABLE RIGHTS. It is not the intention of this Executive Order to create for third parties substantive or procedural rights that are actionable in court or administrative forums or forums of any other kind, against the Government of Puerto Rico or its agencies, officials, employees or any other person.

SECTION 13: EFFECT. This Executive Order shall enter into effect immediately.

SECTION 14: PUBLICATION. This Executive Order shall be filed immediately with the Department of State and its broadest possible publication is hereby ordered.



IN WITNESS, WHEREOFF, I ISSUE THIS Executive Order under my signature and I set the great seal of the Government of Puerto Rico, hereto, in La Fortaleza, San Juan, Puerto Rico, today, this 3th day of October, 2019.


Wanda Vázquez García
Governor

Promulgated pursuant to law, this 4th day of October, 2019.


MARÍA MARCANO DE LEÓN
ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE