



New York City Comptroller
John C. Liu

NEWS RELEASE

PR13-06-091
Contact: E.J. Kessler, (212) 669-3747

June 18, 2013
Page(s): 1

LIU TO MAYOR: WHERE’S THE E911 CONTRACT?

Faults Bloomberg for Lack of Action on Critical Public-Safety System

NEW YORK, N.Y. — More than a month after warning Mayor Bloomberg that the City risked being held hostage by the looming expiration of a contract on the problem-ridden emergency 911 call system, Comptroller John C. Liu today faulted the mayor for his lack of action in securing an appropriate contract.

“What is the Mayor waiting for? We need to get this thing done. Time is running out,” Liu said. “After all the crashes of the E911 system in recent weeks, New Yorkers have too many questions about how this system is being managed to leave this contract to a seat-of-the-pants, midnight negotiation.”

On May 10, Comptroller Liu wrote to Mayor Bloomberg offering to work with him to help make sure that the City would not be under the gun when negotiating with Verizon, which supplies components of the City’s E911 telecommunications systems, including 911 call-handling software. Liu proposed that, in the run-up to the contract expiration on June 30, the Comptroller’s Office and the Mayor’s Office work together to ensure that knowledge of Verizon’s E911 software be brought in-house to City workers. The Mayor has yet to reply.

“I propose that we work together ... to safeguard the taxpayers of the City of New York by ensuring that the City will not be held hostage by a vendor for the continued operation of a critical public-safety system,” Liu wrote, noting that, after spending \$196 million on the contract, “the City still cannot independently operate the E911 software without Verizon consultants and technicians.”

Liu also stated that Verizon should pay the City for the cost overruns the City incurred when the company failed to deliver on its current contractual obligations. “We need to be made whole before we send even more money to a corporation with a proven track record of failing to deliver on its contractual obligations on time,” Liu said.

Background:

Liu letter to Mayor Bloomberg on Verizon E911 contract:

<http://comptroller.nyc.gov/press/pdfs/5-10-2013-bloomberg-Letter.pdf>

Visit www.comptroller.nyc.gov for the latest news, events, and initiatives.

Follow Comptroller Liu on [Twitter](#). To receive Twitter updates via text message, text “follow johnliu” to 40404. View the latest Comptroller’s office videos on [YouTube](#).

###