

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Office of Unified Communications**

Muriel Bowser  
Mayor



Karima Holmes  
Acting Director

March 29, 2022

The Honorable Charles Allen  
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 402  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairperson Allen:

I am writing in response to your inquiry into the Office of Unified Communications' (OUC) handling of an incident on March 14, 2022, regarding an individual suspected of being under the influence of a controlled substance who jumped into the Washington Channel. Below is a timeline of the incident and a summary of our findings.

**Unofficial Timeline**

**March 14, 2022 - Overdose at 4<sup>th</sup> Street & N Street, SW**

- 18:15:10** 1st 911 call received from a caller who reports seeing a male rolling around on the ground yelling and screaming at 4<sup>th</sup> and N Street, SW
- 18:15:46** OUC call taker selects the ODDRUGS—ALCOHOL OR STREET DRUG INTOXICATION – RESPONSIVE event type and sends the call for dispatch
- 18:16:05** OUC FEMS dispatcher dispatches Ambulance 18
- 18:16:59** Ambulance 18 is en route
- 18:18:32** 2<sup>nd</sup> 911 call received from caller reporting that the male is jumping on vehicles in front of 1245 4th Street, SW
- 18:19:22** 3<sup>rd</sup> 911 call received from caller reporting that the male is walking back and forth in the block between M and N Streets scaring passersby
- 18:20:47** OUC MPD dispatcher updates the event record to reflect that there are no available police units
- 18:24:52** Ambulance 18 arrives on scene
- 18:26:21** Ambulance 18 raises the OUC FEMS dispatcher to request police by inquiring, "...can we have MPD respond?"



**18:27:17** The event record is updated by the OUC FEMS dispatcher to reflect that Ambulance 18 is standing by for assistance from MPD

**18:33:11** OUC FEMS dispatcher informs Ambulance 18 that police assistance was requested again per their request

**18:33:18** Ambulance 18 informs the dispatcher that “the patient is belligerent, running all over the place, hurting himself. We can’t contain him. Possibly has PCP onboard”

**18:34:16** The event record is updated to state, “PER A18 PT IS IRATE A18 NEED ASSISTANCE WITH PT”

**18:36:24** OUC MPD Dispatcher voiced requests for police units

**18:37:12** 1<sup>st</sup> available MPD unit goes en route to the incident

**18:37:23** The event record is updated to reflect that the patient was running in and out of traffic and was removing his clothing; the event type is changed from MENTAL to LEWD; the incident location was updated to 1250 4<sup>th</sup> Street, SW

**18:38:55** Ambulance 18 requests a medic unit and requests that the dispatcher again notify MPD that assistance is needed; also informs the dispatcher the incident scene is now “off P Street on the riverside”

**18:39:03** OUC FEMS dispatcher dispatches Medic 7

**18:39:47** OUC FEMS dispatcher goes over the radio to inform Medic 7 of the updated incident location

**18:42:28** Ambulance 18 calls a 10-33

**18:43:12** 1<sup>st</sup> MPD unit arrives at 1245 4<sup>th</sup> Street, SW

**18:44:53** Ambulance 18 raises the OUC FEMS dispatcher to advise that the patient just jumped into the water

**18:45:27** Ambulance 18 advises Battalion Chief 6 that a water rescue assignment is needed

**18:46:37** Fireboat advises that 1 Harbor Boat is on scene as well as water rescue support

**18:46:43** 2<sup>nd</sup> available MPD unit goes en route to the incident

**18:53:51** MPD advises that the patient was located under the pier

**19:02:36** MPD advises that the patient is out of the water

**19:19:36** The patient is transported to Washington Hospital Center

## Summary

OUC received multiple 911 calls regarding this incident. Given the information provided by 911 callers, it was properly classified as a Priority 2. Further, in less than 1 minute of receiving the first 911 call, OUC personnel dispatched a FEMS unit and attempted to identify an available MPD unit to send as well.

Once the FEMS unit arrived on the scene and established command, OUC personnel maintained contact with the FEMS unit and continually updated the CAD event record with the information they provided, while the patient moved around in the vicinity of the original incident location. OUC personnel also continued efforts to identify available MPD units to assist as the incident developed. Consequently, police were enroute before the FEMS unit made the 10-33 distress call and arrived nearby less than 1 minute later.

MPD Harbor Patrol was also on the scene and located the patient under the pier within approximately 1 minute of the FEMS unit advising that the patient had jumped into the water and requesting water rescue support.

## Findings

This call was properly classified and there was no delay in service provided by the Office of Unified Communications.

During the preliminary review of the incident, OUC, FEMS, and MPD agreed that on future FEMS calls when police assistance is requested, that an MPD official should be notified via the radio when police units are not available, regardless of event priority level. OUC is actively working to schedule a hotwash of this incident with FEMS and MPD to document this new practice and to examine the overall response more deeply.

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify the OUC's performance related to this incident and for your continued support of our workforce.

Sincerely,



Karima Holmes  
Acting Director

cc: Christopher Geldart, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice  
Chief John A. Donnelly, Sr., Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department  
Chief Robert Contee, Metropolitan Police Department