



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE SENATOR
MICHAEL O. MOORE
SECOND WORCESTER DISTRICT
State House, Room 518, Boston, MA 02133 (617) 722-1485

**SENATOR MOORE & REPRESENTATIVE PETERSON ANNOUNCE
\$14,085 IN PUBLIC SAFETY GRANTS FOR UPTON**

Boston, MA – The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and the State 911 Department awarded \$14,085 in grants to Upton to support its 911 emergency dispatch communications center and enhance public safety.

The grant was drawn from a fund created last year by the legislature and Governor Deval Patrick who approved a law creating a State 911 Department and a single surcharge on each subscriber whose communication service is capable of accessing and utilizing the enhanced 911 system in the Commonwealth. Passage assured citizens would be able to call for police, fire or emergency medical services whenever and from wherever needed and that the public safety workers taking the calls have been trained and have state of the art equipment to provide the needed help.

“This money is extremely important for both the citizens of Upton as well as its Fire, Police and EMS departments,” said Senator Moore. “Our local Public Safety Agencies answer numerous calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This grant is a great help in providing Upton with both new equipment and technology in an ongoing effort to help protect lives and keep our community safe.”

“I am extremely pleased that we were able to secure this funding for the enhanced 911 system,” stated Representative Peterson. “I believe that all of our constituents should now feel even safer when they call for an emergency, as this will allow for faster response times.”

Customers now pay a \$.75 surcharge per month that is used to pay for enhanced training, upgraded equipment, infrastructure improvements and incentives to regionalize 911 operations. That surcharge provides \$19.1 million in FY09 and approximately \$21.5 million in FY10 directly to 911 answering centers to enhance training, upgrade equipment and support operating expenses.

So far this fiscal year, \$14.1 million dollars in grants has been awarded to support emergency dispatch communications centers to enhance public safety.