

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

County of Warren, New Jersey



## **Warren County Seeks Municipal Ordinances on Radio Booster Installation**

(WHITE TWP., NJ – October 8, 2019) – Warren County officials are encouraging the county’s 22 municipalities to adopt an ordinance requiring large hardened buildings – such as shopping centers, schools, apartment buildings, and medical facilities – to install radio booster equipment to assist critical communications by emergency first responders.

The Warren County Public Safety Department is circulating a model ordinance and specifications for in-building radio communications in the hopes of preventing a situation where first responders inside such buildings are unable to communicate with each other and with dispatch centers.

So far, Mansfield, Lopatcong and Pohatcong townships have adopted ordinances and White Township is in the process of passing it, while six other municipalities have indicated they are receptive to the idea.

“I’m pleased that some Warren County municipalities have enacted this ordinance already but it is our goal to have 100% adoption,” said Freeholder James R. Kern, III. “We need to make sure that our first responders can rely on their communication equipment while doing their jobs. These brave men and women put their life on the line and we must try to eliminate any obstacles they face,” Kern added.

According to Warren County Public Safety Director Frank Wheatley, the “large hardened buildings” can sometimes block the radio signals going to and from law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical personnel.

Requiring malls and retail centers, offices, hotels, condominiums and apartments, medical facilities, training centers, schools and other structures to install radio booster equipment will insure unimpeded communications for first responders.

###