



**TEAM: PUBLIC SAFETY**

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**SUBJECT: INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM**

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

- Increase federal research and development investment and regional partnership to accelerate applied innovation in public safety technology.
- Support responsible public safety technology integration to include ethical artificial intelligence (AI) via the National Institute of Standards and Technology framework and recommendations related to AI standards.
- Continue supporting improvements in cybersecurity awareness and mitigation.
- Advancements in lithium-ion battery safety.
- Modernization and advancements addressing UAS public safety equipment and operations.

**HOW THIS SUPPORTS BUSINESSES:**

Businesses benefit when communities are vibrant, healthy, and safe. This is especially true for the Capital Region as we continue to work with businesses, non-profits, local governments, elected officials, and academic institutions to make strategic investments in our region. We remain surgically focused on ensuring that our region can support and encourage business development. To do so, it is essential that public safety agencies have the best tools, technology, and personnel to effectively prioritize the safety and security of business owners, residents, and visitors. Enhancing public safety effectiveness and building community trust requires the strategic integration of emerging technologies while addressing associated ethical and legal considerations.

This is best accomplished by building upon the ecosystem of innovation that already exists within the Capital Region. Federal R&D partnerships and tech hub investments



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will accelerate commercialization in semiconductors—reducing time to market for local firms and opening supply-chain and advanced-manufacturing opportunities.

Expanding these efforts also positions the Capital Region as a national model for how public safety and economic development can advance together. By aligning modernization initiatives with federal priorities—such as smart infrastructure, resilient supply chains, and responsible AI deployment, the region strengthens its competitiveness for future federal grants and public-private partnerships. This alignment not only accelerates technology adoption within public safety agencies but also signals to investors and employers that our region is committed to building a secure, innovation-ready environment where businesses can thrive.

Moreover, integrating advanced technologies into public safety operations creates a ripple effect that benefits the broader workforce and local economy. As agencies adopt tools such as real-time data platforms, AI-enabled analytics, and next-generation communications systems, demand grows for a skilled labor pipeline capable of supporting these systems. This drives new training programs, apprenticeships, and career pathways in cybersecurity, data science, engineering, and public-safety tech operations. In turn, residents gain access to high-quality jobs, businesses gain access to a more capable workforce, and the region strengthens its position as a hub for innovation, safety, and long-term economic resilience.

#### **HOW THIS SUPPORTS RESIDENTS OF OUR REGION:**

Aligning public safety modernization with the region’s innovation assets—UC Davis, Aggie Square, Cal EPIC, and The Plant—improves community safety, trust, and resilience through ethical AI, secure data systems, and UAS support for emergency response, while creating high-wage local jobs across research, manufacturing, and operations.

By integrating these modernization efforts with community-focused strategies, residents also benefit from more transparent, accountable, and accessible public safety services. Modern tools such as real-time situational awareness platforms, interoperable communications, and AI-supported decision systems help first responders better understand community needs and respond more effectively during emergencies. These improvements reduce service gaps, strengthen neighborhood-level resilience, and ensure that all residents—regardless of ZIP code—experience timely, high-quality

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support. At the same time, the expansion of research, testing, and advanced manufacturing tied to public safety innovation creates new educational pathways and career opportunities for residents, reinforcing a future where safety, economic mobility, and community well-being advance together.