STATE OF NEW YORK
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE 21-C-0473 – Petition of the North American Numbering Plan Administrator on Behalf of the New York Telecommunications Industry for Relief of the 516 NPA.

NOTICE SOLICITING COMMENTS

(Issued November 2, 2021)

On September 2, 2021, SomosGov, Inc. (Somos), in its role as the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) and on behalf of the Telecommunications Industry, filed a petition for relief of the 516 numbering plan area (NPA or area code). The petition requests approval to overlay a new telephone area code within Nassau County, New York, which is currently covered by the 516 area code. The petition seeks a first quarter 2023 effective date for the new area code. The introduction of the new area code will have no effect on existing customers' telephone numbers, dialing patterns or billing.

In accordance with standard telephone industry guidelines, NANPA based its petition on a projection showing that the current 516 area code will exhaust available numbers in the third quarter of 2023. Per the petition, all existing Nassau County wireline and wireless telephone customers in the overlay area would retain their current 516 area code and telephone numbers, i.e., the new area code would cover requests for new phone numbers once the 516 NPA is fully exhausted. Subsequent to submitting its petition, and as a result of the most recent analysis, NANPA revised the exhaust projection for the 516 area code to the second quarter of 2023 due to an

increase in the demand for numbers.

The implementation of a new overlay area code normally requires implementation of mandatory 10-digit dialing (i.e., the three-digit area code plus the seven-digit telephone number are required) for all calls, whether local or long-distance. However, by the time the proposed Nassau County overlay area code becomes effective, customers in the 516 area code will already have transitioned to mandatory 10-digit dialing due to the national implementation of the "988" three-digit hotline to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline occurring now. Therefore, the timeline to implement the proposed area code will be shorter than in other overlay implementations because certain customer education and industry technical milestones will not be needed. Please refer to the attached Fact Sheet for more information. The full text of the petition and the full record of the proceeding may be reviewed online at the Department of Public Service web page: www.dps.ny.gov.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that comments are sought, by December 13, 2021, in evaluating the request to overlay an additional area code in the existing 516 NPA. Comments shall refer to "Case 21-C-0473" and be submitted to the Secretary by e-filing, through the Department's Document and Matter Management System, or by email to the Secretary at secretary@dps.ny.gov. If unable to file electronically, commenters may make submissions by U.S. Mail to the Hon. Michelle L. Phillips, Secretary, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12223-1350.[1] All documents submitted to the Secretary will be posted on the Department's website, www.dps.ny.gov and become part of the official case record.

If you have any questions, please contact Brian Ossias

[1] Filing electronically is strongly encouraged.

at brian.ossias@dps.ny.gov or at 518-486-3669.

(SIGNED) MICHELLE L. PHILLIPS
Secretary

Case 21-C-0473 - Petition of the North American Numbering Plan Administrator on Behalf of the New York Telecommunications Industry for Relief of the 516 NPA.

FACT SHEET

- By petition filed September 2, 2021, the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) notified the Commission that the 516 numbering plan area (NPA or area code), that serves Nassau County, is projected to exhaust its supply of central office codes (also known as NNX codes) by the third quarter of 2023.[2]
- The petition requests approval to implement an "all-services overlay" as the recommended method to provide the needed area code relief. Under an all-services overlay, both wireline and wireless phone numbers would be assigned to a new area code serving the same geographic area occupied by the existing 516 NPA. The projected life of this relief method is 49 years.[3]
- Implementation of the new area code (and its three-digit identification) would occur following Commission approval of the petition. The petition identifies various implementation phases, including customer education, network preparation and activation of the new area code no later than the first quarter of 2023.

---

[2] Subsequent to submitting its petition, NANPA revised the forecasted exhaust projection for the 516 area code to the second quarter of 2023 due to an increase in the demand for telephone numbers.

[3] Another relief method known as a "boundary elimination overlay" was also considered, which would merge the 516 NPA with the adjacent 631/934 NPA that currently serves Long Island's Suffolk County. A new area code would not be needed under this option. Instead, when all 516 NPA central office codes are exhausted, spare central office codes from the 631/934 NPA would be available for assignment throughout the combined overlay area. The boundary elimination overlay method is projected to provide relief for 22 years but was ultimately not recommended by NANPA due to its shorter relief lifespan and increased complexity to implement.

- All existing customers would retain their current 516 area code and telephone numbers. However, ten-digit dialing (the 3-digit area code plus the 7-digit telephone number) would be required for all calls, whether local or long-distance, within the affected area.

- NANPA usually recommends an 18-month area code relief implementation timeline to adequately complete network modifications and educate customers about changes to dialing patterns. However, the petition explains that the typical timeline will be shortened to nine months in this instance.

- The shorter implementation timeframe is warranted because there is no need for a permissive dialing period since 10-digit dialing will already be in place by the time the proposed overlay area code becomes effective. Customers in the 516 NPA will already have transitioned to mandatory ten-digit dialing due to the national implementation of the 9-8-8 three-digit hotline to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, which is occurring now.

- On July 16, 2020, the FCC adopted an Order approving the designation of 9-8-8 as the 3-digit abbreviated dialing code to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, requiring all telecommunications carriers to make any network changes necessary to ensure that users can dial 988 to reach the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by July 16, 2022.[4] To ensure that calls to 9-8-8 reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, the FCC Order requires providers to implement mandatory 10-digit dialing by July 16, 2022 in NPAs that both use 7-digit dialing and use 988 as a central office code. The 516 NPA is included in these FCC requirements, along with four other area codes in New York and 77 other area codes across the country.

[4] The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available today, providing suicide prevention and mental health crisis assistance at 1-800-273-8255 and through online chats. 9-8-8 is not a nationwide calling code right now. The Veterans Crisis Line is also available today, providing Veteran specific suicide prevention and crisis assistance at 1-800-273-8255 (Press 1), by texting 838255, and through online chats at veteranscrisisline.net.