

I. Introduction

The New York City Police Department (NYPD) uses conventional land mobile radio (LMR) for departmental communications. These broadcasts are encrypted to protect sensitive personal information related to victims and witnesses; to prevent disruptions to, or interference with, ongoing law enforcement operations; and to protect sensitive information about investigative techniques and operational procedures.

Local Law 46-2026 requires that the NYPD adopt a written radio encryption policy that provides for (1) reports of critical incidents to be broadcast over an unencrypted, citywide channel accessible in real-time to the general public, and (2) professional journalists to access encrypted radio broadcasts for department channels that do not routinely transmit sensitive information.

II. Citywide Channel for Critical Incidents

Reports of critical incidents are currently broadcasted over NYPD Citywide 1. NYPD Citywide 1 is an unencrypted, citywide channel that is currently accessible in real-time by members of the public. Access to NYPD's Citywide 1 radio channel is available at no cost to individuals via online streaming services dedicated to radio communications or with the use of a compatible radio scanner.

III. Access to Encrypted Channels That Do Not Routinely Transmit Sensitive Information

The NYPD will establish a platform to provide credentialed professional journalists with access to encrypted channels that do not routinely transmit sensitive information. The feeds will be transmitted at a 30-minute delay on an internet-based platform. This platform will indicate which channels are actively transmitting. Although allowed by law to collect reasonable fees, at this time the Department will absorb all costs related to access to the encrypted channels for approved members of the press.

Members of the press holding either standard press cards or reserve press cards issued by the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment (MOME) may obtain credentials to access this platform. All such individuals must abide by the Acceptable Use Policy for Access to Encrypted NYPD Radio Transmissions (Attachment 1). Failure to adhere to this Policy will result in revocation of access. Should a journalist applying under a reserve press card lose access, that loss will apply to the journalist only and not to the media organization.

The NYPD reserves the right to audit use of the platform. Any audit will be limited to an investigation of the use of the platform to ensure that the policies in the Acceptable Use Policy are being upheld.

Members of the press holding standard press cards or reserved press cards may request access to encrypted radio transmissions by completing an Application for Access to Encrypted NYPD Radio Transmissions (Attachment 2) and taking the following steps:

1. Apply for access via the NYPD by submitting a complete application packet, including a signed Acceptable Use Agreement, to radioaccess@nypd.org
2. Media organizations holding reserve press cards are required to designate a single official

representative to serve as the primary contact person, and individual applications must be submitted for all journalists applying via an organization with a reserve press card. The Acceptable Use Agreement must be signed both by the organization's official representative and by the journalist.

3. Once the application has been approved, the NYPD will inform the journalist via email and provide instructions for setting up their account for access.
4. If a member of the media's application is denied, the journalist has the right to file an appeal with the NYPD.

Attachment 1

Acceptable Use Policy for Access to Encrypted NYPD Radio Transmissions

This policy (“Policy”) governs access to certain encrypted NYPD radio transmissions (“Radio Transmissions”) provided to professional journalists with press cards issued by the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment (“MOME”). Failure to adhere to this Policy will result in revocation of access. Journalists whose access is revoked will be notified in writing.

1. Radio Transmissions may only be accessed by professional journalists who have MOME standard press cards or reserve press cards. Access will not be granted based on expired MOME credentials. Any changes in employment or press credential status of a professional must be reported to the Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Public Information via radioaccess@nypd.org. Journalists who renew their MOME credentials must submit a copy of their new credential in a timely manner.
2. Radio Transmissions may not be publicly streamed, re-streamed, or rebroadcast. Unmodified, limited excerpts from the transmissions may be used in the production of media products.
3. Radio Transmissions may not be used to interfere with any law enforcement operation or for any other unlawful purpose.
4. Radio Transmission may only be accessed through the platform provided by the NYPD. No code, malware, or other software may be introduced into the platform. The NYPD reserves the right to audit use of the platform. The audit will only investigate the use of the platform, to ensure that the policies in this Acceptable Use Agreement are being upheld.
5. Log-in credentials may only be used by the journalist to whom they are issued, and may not be shared with, or used by, anyone else. If log-in credentials have been used by another individual or have otherwise been compromised, the Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Public Information must be notified immediately.

SIGNATURE

DATE

Attachment 2

Application for Access to Encrypted NYPD Radio Transmissions

Instructions

Access to certain encrypted NYPD radio transmissions is available to professional journalists, as that term is defined in section 79-h of the New York Civil Rights Law, who have received press credentials in accordance with section 3-119.4 of the New York City Administrative Code.

To obtain access, please submit the following to radioaccess@nypd.org:

- (1) A completed copy of the form on the following page;
- (2) A copy of your Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment Standard or Reserve Press Card; and
- (3) A signed copy of the Acceptable Use Policy for Access to Encrypted NYPD Radio Transmissions.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Application for Members of the Media for Access to Encrypted NYPD Radio Transmissions

Applicant's Name: _____

Organization: _____

Work Email Address: _____

Work Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please check one of the following two statements and provide the information requested:

☐ I am a professional journalist seeking access to encrypted NYPD radio transmissions and have been issued a Standard Press Card.

My Standard Press Card number is _____

My press card will expire on: _____

☐ I am a professional journalist seeking access to encrypted NYPD radio transmissions under the auspices of my employer's Reserve Press Card. The designated contact person for my employer is:

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Work Email Address: _____

Work Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Reserve Press Card number: _____

Reserve Press Card expiration date: _____