

New York City Police Department

Policy Proposal Pursuant to Local Law 46-2026

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.

Comments on this proposal may be submitted via email to: radioaccess@nypd.org. All comments must be received by September 14th, 2026.

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 Regularly Broadcast Sensitive Information

The NYPD will establish a platform to provide credentialed professional journalists with access to encrypted channels that do not regularly broadcast sensitive information. The feeds will be broadcast at a delay.

Members of the press holding either standard press cards or reserve press cards issued by the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment (MOME) requesting access to encrypted radio transmissions must take the following steps:

1. Standard Press Card Applicants: Apply for access via the NYPD by submitting a complete application packet, including a signed Acceptable Use Agreement.
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.