



Department of
Public Service

Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223-1350
www.dps.ny.gov

Public Service Commission
Rory M. Christian
Chair and
Chief Executive Officer

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Village of ...

Diane X. Burman
James S. Alesi
Tracey A. Edwards
John B. Howard
David J. Valesky
John B. Maggiore
Commissioners

November 12, 2021

Dear Community Leader/Elected Official:

In September 2021, SomosGov, Inc. (Somos), in its role as the North American Numbering Plan Administrator, filed a petition with the New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) seeking approval to overlay a new telephone area code within Nassau County, New York. The county is currently covered by the 516 area code, which Somos projects will exhaust available numbers by the second quarter of 2023.

To ensure full public participation, the Commission will hold virtual public statement hearings on **December 2, 2021** to solicit input and comments from your community regarding the 516 Area Code Relief petition. Information received at the public hearings will be transcribed and will be included in the record considered by the Commission in this matter.

The enclosed Notice of Public Statement Hearings provides detailed information on how to participate at the public hearings and how to submit comments. Information about the case can be found at www.dps.ny.gov. From the homepage, click on "Search," and enter the associated case number (21-C-0473) in the "Search by Case Number" field.

I would appreciate your assistance with informing your constituents about the public hearing and encouraging them to provide comments. It is the Commission's intent to facilitate and encourage active and meaningful participation throughout all of its proceedings. I hope you will consider joining us.

Regards,

Bruce Alch
Director
Office of Consumer Services

Enc.

Rory Lancman, Special Counsel

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.

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, 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.

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 OF PUBLIC STATEMENT HEARINGS

(Issued November 4, 2021)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that public comment is invited regarding a petition filed on September 2, 2021, by SomosGov, Inc. (Somos), in its role as the North American Numbering Plan Administrator, which requests approval to overlay a new area code within Nassau County, which is currently covered by the 516-area code. The petition seeks an effective date of the new area code in the first quarter of 2023.

In accordance with standard telephone industry guidelines, Somos based its petition on an initial forecasted projection showing that the current 516-area code will exhaust its supply of available numbers in the third quarter of 2023. The petition proposes an area code overlay as relief for the forecasted exhaustion. An overlay option means that an additional area code is used throughout the entire geographic area for new telecommunications services, while existing phone numbers are not affected. All new area codes created in the United States and New York State over the past several years have been implemented via an overlay.

According to 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, and the new area code would be assigned to new phone numbers once 516 is fully exhausted. Subsequent to submitting its

petition, as a result of the most recent exhaust analysis, Somos revised the forecasted exhaust projection for the 516-area code to the second quarter of 2023 due to an increase in the demand for numbers. Demand for new phone numbers is driven largely by the phenomenal growth of new technology that requires an individual phone number, such as cell phones, tablets and other electronic devices.

Implementation of the new area code (and its three-digit identification) would occur following Commission approval of the petition and normally requires concurrent implementation of mandatory ten-digit dialing (whereby the three-digit area code and seven-digit telephone number are required to complete a call) 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 already will have transitioned to mandatory 10-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. The timeline to implement the proposed area code will be shorter than in other overlay implementations because there would be no requirement for a permissive dialing period (during which calling parties would have the ability to continue to complete calls via seven-digit dialing while also making ten-digit dialing available during the transition). Following a nine-month period for customer education and network preparation, implementation is expected to be completed no later than the first quarter of 2023.

The introduction of the new area code will have no effect on existing telephone numbers, dialing patterns or billing. The only consumers affected will be those receiving new telephone numbers.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that two virtual public statement hearings will be held before the assigned Administrative Law Judge, as follows:

Hearing #1:

DATE: Thursday, December 2, 2021
TIME: 1:00 P.M.

Electronic Access: www.webex.com
Event Number: 2348 281 0709
Password: Dec2-1pm

Phone-Only Access: 518-549-0500
Access Code: 2348 281 0709

Hearing #2:

DATE: Thursday, December 2, 2021
TIME: 6:00 P.M.

Electronic Access: www.webex.com
Event Number: 2346 702 7889
Password: Dec2-6pm

Phone-Only Access: 518-549-0500
Access Code: 2346 702 7889

Department of Public Service Staff will conduct a brief information presentation and a question-and-answer session before each hearing.

Participants who would like to provide a statement on the record at the hearings must pre-register by **3:00 P.M. on Wednesday, December 1, 2021**. Speakers will be called in the order in which they registered.

To register electronically: Participants who would like to provide a statement and will login to a hearing electronically should register to do so by visiting www.webex.com, where they should then click "Join" at the top right-hand corner of the screen, enter the event number listed above, and provide the requested information.

When logging in to the hearing on the designated date and time, participants will be asked to "select audio system." It is recommended that participants select either "call me" or "call using computer."

To register by phone: Any participant who is not able to login to a hearing electronically may participate by phone. Call-in participants who would like to provide a statement may register by calling **1-800-342-3330 by 3:00 P.M. on December 1, 2021**, following prompts to the appropriate hearing, and providing their first and last name, address, and phone number.

On the appropriate date and time of a hearing, all call-in users must dial **518-549-0500** and enter the relevant access code listed above.

All participants will be muted upon entry into the hearing. A time limit of three minutes will be set for each speaker. Lengthier comments will not be accepted at the hearing and instead should be submitted in writing. A transcript of the hearing will be included in the record of this case.

To listen to the hearing: Any person who would like to listen to the hearings without making a statement may access the hearings without pre-registering. Any person may listen to the hearings by calling **(518) 549-0500** and entering the access code listed above.

Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations should call the Department of Public Service's Human Resources Management Office at (518) 474-2520 as soon as possible. TDD users may request a sign language interpreter by placing a call through the New York Relay Service at 711. Individuals with difficulty understanding or reading English are encouraged to call the Department at 1-800-342-3377 for free language assistance services regarding this notice.

Other Ways to Comment

There are several other ways to provide your comments. All submitted comments should refer to "Case 21-C-0473." Although comments will be accepted throughout the pendency of this case, to ensure timely consideration by the Commission, public comments are requested by December 13, 2021.

Via the Internet or Mail: Go to www.dps.ny.gov, then click on "Search" and enter "21-C-0473" in the "Search by Case Number" field, and then click on "Post Comments" at the top right of the page or send comments by email to the Secretary to the Commission at secretary@dps.ny.gov.

Alternatively, comments may be mailed to the Hon. Michelle L. Phillips, Secretary, New York State Public Service Commission, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12223-1350.¹ All written comments will become part of the record considered by the Commission and may be accessed on the Department of Public Service website by searching the case number, as described above, and clicking on the "Public Comments" tab.

Toll-Free Opinion Line: You may call the Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120. This number is set up to take comments about pending cases from in-state callers, 24-hours a day. These comments are not transcribed verbatim, but a summary is provided to the Commission.

(SIGNED)

MICHELLE L. PHILLIPS
Secretary

¹ Filing electronically is strongly encouraged.

