

## Albert Sally

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**From:** Joseph Alvarez  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 11:24 AM  
**To:** Greg Lembrich; Dean Dafis  
**Cc:** Jerry Giaimis; Bailey Barnett; kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com; Frank McGehee; Victor DeLuca; Nancy Adams; Jamaine Cripe; Jimmy DeVaul; Albert Sally; jamaine9@me.com  
**Subject:** RE: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

I can get you a list on the equipment along with the cost it will be very minimal. Will have it by next week.

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**From:** Greg Lembrich  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 10:39 AM  
**To:** Dean Dafis <DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us>  
**Cc:** Jerry Giaimis <JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Bailey Barnett <BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com; Frank McGehee <FMcGehee@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Victor DeLuca <V.DeLuca@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Nancy Adams <Nadams@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Jamaine Cripe <JCripe@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Jimmy DeVaul <JDeVaul@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Albert Sally <ASally@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; jamaine9@me.com; Joseph Alvarez <JAlvarez@twp.maplewood.nj.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Dean,  
I'm not precisely sure what equipment is required or the cost, nor the status of procuring or installing it. I do know that MFD did not have the requisite equipment as of the last Public Safety Committee report. If the Department has since obtained it, or at least been authorized to do so, then that is progress. Copying in Chief Alvarez, who may be able to provide an update; and apologies if my understanding did not reflect the latest status.

Greg

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On Dec 31, 2021, at 10:26 AM, Dean Dafis <[ddafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:ddafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)> wrote:

Greg - thanks for replying.

Just to clarify, earlier in the thread Chief Alvarez stated that it's 'an easy fix' and Jerry replied that he authorized the Chief to make the adjustment or the 'fix'. Is it our understanding now that regardless of whether it's an easy fix or not, we don't have the software or other equipment to do so? If so, do we know what that equipment is and/or how much it costs?

Ironically, something keeps getting lost in communication on this topic which further fuels public speculation.

Thanks.

Dean Dafis (*he, him, his*)

Deputy Mayor  
Maplewood Township  
(973) 762-8120, ext 2107

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**From:** Greg Lembrich  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 9:15:00 AM  
**To:** Erin Scherzer; Jerry Giaimis  
**Cc:** Bailey Barnett; Dean Dafis; Kasia Piekarz; Frank McGehee; Victor DeLuca; Nancy Adams; Jamaine Cripe; Jimmy DeVaul; Albert Sally  
**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Erin,

Maplewood Police radio communications are not encrypted; they can be heard by anyone who has a scanner. The issue this resident has raised is that the MPD radio feed used to be made available to Broadcastify and/or another web-based service that provides a website or scanner app that make local police, fire, EMS, etc. radio transmissions available online. The feed was made available via the Maplewood Fire Department at a time when the MPD and MFD used the same radio frequency. The MFD specifically makes its feed available publicly via online sources for safety reasons because it sometimes provides mutual aid to or receives mutual aid from jurisdictions where the fire departments or other local emergency services broadcast their communications on different frequencies. Since the MFD upgraded to new radios, they no longer use the same frequency as the MPD, so the MPD transmissions are now not included in the feed transmitted by MFD. Access was not "turned off" by MPD (nor was it ever "turned on") and remains available to the public via a scanner. To the extent that any third-party ever provided the MPD feed to online scanner services in the interim, which is certainly possible (the airwaves are public), I have no information about that.

While we have been advised that MFD could resume making the MPD radio communications available via the online scanner services/websites/apps, it would require the purchase and installation of additional equipment by the Township. It is not simply a matter of pushing a button or flipping a switch. The Township Committee will need to make a policy and budget decision regarding whether it wishes to move forward with such a plan. I note, however, my understanding that the town has no legal obligation to provide its radio communications to online scanner services, websites, or apps. As I mentioned, the communications are not encrypted or blocked in any way, but broadcast over public airwaves. The Fire Chief has stated that MFD can provide the MPD feed to online services if provided the proper equipment by the Township, and the Police Chief has stated no objection to doing so. The TC can decide how to proceed on this matter in 2022.

Greg

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**From:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 7:34:21 AM  
**To:** Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>  
**Cc:** Bailey Barnett <[BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Dean Dafis <[DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Greg Lembrich

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**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Good Morning,

A resident reached out as there was an incident overnight in her neighborhood. Since the police scanner was still down, she and her neighbors were without information on something impacting their neighborhood. It is unsettling to have something happen in your neighborhood and you don't know what is actually happening, not to mention the importance of transparency. I am concerned the scanner hasn't been fixed yet. What is the latest with the repair and the eta on completion?

Residents have been raising this for years, and so fixing this scanner needs to happen.

Best,  
Erin

On Wed, Dec 15, 2021 at 12:10 PM Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)> wrote:

I did authorize him to proceed. I will follow up

Jerry Giaimis

Maplewood Township Administrator

*ICMA Credentialed Manager*

[574 Valley Street](#)

[Maplewood, New Jersey 07040](#)

(973) 762-8120 Ext. 2000

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**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 11:24 AM

**To:** Bailey Barnett <[BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>; Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>

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**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

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If we can get this done then we will never hear about it again 🙄

Dean Dafis (*he, him, his*)

Deputy Mayor

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**From:** Bailey Barnett  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 11:07:46 AM  
**To:** Erin Scherzer; Jerry Giaimis  
**Cc:** Dean Dafis; Greg Lembrich; Kasia Piekarz  
**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Good Morning,

I believe there was a discussion where Chief Alvarez said he would be taking this on--can someone please confirm?

Best,

Bailey Barnett

Assistant Township Administrator

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Township of Maplewood

574 Valley Street

Maplewood, New Jersey 07040

---

**From:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 7:48:51 AM  
**To:** Jerry Giaimis  
**Cc:** Bailey Barnett; Dean Dafis; Greg Lembrich; Kasia Piekarz  
**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Hi Jerry,

I want to bump this email up. The resident has been trying to address this issue with the town for a while and keeps getting the run around (before your time) - I believe patience is understandably waning with this resident. What would be next steps to fix the scanner?

Erin

On Sat, Dec 11, 2021 at 11:29 AM Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)> wrote:

Jerry,

Thank you for explaining this. Members of the public are very upset about the lack of access and that this hasn't been resolved. I am also concened too as people need the transparency.

How and when can it be resolved? Who from PD and FD will make sure these 3rd party apps can connect with MPD too? The public is understandably growing upset on this as it has been going on for years. Traditional scanners are pricey.

Erin

On Wed, Dec 8, 2021 at 10:35 AM Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)> wrote:

I spoke with the Chief, and he advises that the scanner is not "*being intentionally turned off.*" Anyone with a traditional Police Scanner can hear anything available on the Maplewood Police channel. Although they were aware 3<sup>rd</sup> party organizations (Broadcastify/Radio Reference) were distributing the feed, they never played any role in providing the information to do so. Therefore, they never did anything to "*turn it off.*"

What happened was this: The FD always provided those third-party apps the necessary information to broadcast the Police and Fire feed (something Chief DeVaul was completely unaware of). They were able to do this simultaneously when they had similar systems. When FD upgraded to a new system, they could no longer distribute both. The system's changing is the only reason it stopped; this was about two or three years ago. Because the PD was never involved in assisting the 3<sup>rd</sup> party apps, they were not aware the feed was removed, and when they found out it was, they knew they did nothing to further it, so they assumed it was a 3<sup>rd</sup> party app issue. The PD has no aversion to helping the apps; they just never helped them when it was up, so there was some confusion on how the information was even getting out in the first place.

That said, I spoke with Chief Alvarez, an expert in these issues, and he advises that it's an easy lift to get the PD on to these apps. I have no problem with this, as a traditional scanner can be expensive. The cost of the equipment needed to do this is minimal, and we may already have it

I hope this provides some clarification on the issue.

- Jerry

Jerry Giaimis  
Maplewood Township Administrator  
ICMA Credentialed Manager

[574 Valley Street](#)  
[Maplewood, New Jersey 07040](#)  
(973) 762-8120 Ext. 2000

**From:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 12:08 PM

**To:** Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>

**Cc:** Bailey Barnett <[BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Dean Dafis <[DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Greg Lembrich <[Glemblich@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Glemblich@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Kasia Piekarz <[kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com](mailto:kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Through a 3rd party app.

On Tue, Dec 7, 2021 at 11:12 AM Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)> wrote:

Will do. For clarification, are people referring to listening to the feed on actual police scanners or through one of the third-party websites like Broadcastify?

Jerry Giaimis  
Maplewood Township Administrator  
ICMA Credentialed Manager

[574 Valley Street](#)  
[Maplewood, New Jersey 07040](#)  
(973) 762-8120 Ext. 2000

---

**From:** Dean Dafis

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 11:07 AM

**To:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>; Greg Lembrich <[Glemblich@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Glemblich@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Kasia Piekarz <[kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com](mailto:kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com)>; Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Bailey Barnett <[BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>

**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

JERRY - please address and report back. Thanks in advance. I don't understand how one can be out and the other online as I thought they were linked.

Appreciate your insight.

Dean Dafis (*he, him, his*)

Deputy Mayor  
Maplewood Township  
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**From:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 8:08:55 AM

**To:** Dean Dafis; Greg Lembrich; Kasia Piekarz

**Subject:** Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Good Morning Greg and Dean,

A resident has reached out again regarding the scanner that Kasia and I raised last week when it was brought to our attention. There is a suggestion from a resident that the scanner is being intentionally turned off as the fire scanner is still up. I don't understand the technology here, but I do feel the Board needs to raise this concern from a resident as transparency is key for better community-police relations.

I recognize that you are both volunteers too, so if I can help in any way (even with my limited tech knowledge), I am happy to do so.

I know you addressed this before (thank you, thank you) so hopefully this is an easy fix too.

Best,  
Erin

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## Albert Sally

---

**From:** Jerry Giaimis  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 11:25 AM  
**To:** Joseph Alvarez; Greg Lembrich; Dean Dafis  
**Cc:** Bailey Barnett; kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com; Frank McGehee; Victor DeLuca; Nancy Adams; Jamaine Cripe; Jimmy DeVaul; Albert Sally; jamaine9@me.com  
**Subject:** RE: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Thanks Chief, given the cost, you can just go ahead and effectuate the purchase.

Jerry Giaimis  
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**Cc:** Bailey Barnett; Dean Dafis; Kasia Piekarz; Frank McGehee; Victor DeLuca; Nancy Adams; Jamaine Cripe; Jimmy DeVaul; Albert Sally

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*ICMA Credentialed Manager*

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**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 12:08 PM  
**To:** Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>  
**Cc:** Bailey Barnett <[BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Dean Dafis <[DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Greg Lembrich <[Glemblich@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Glemblich@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Kasia Piekarz <[kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com](mailto:kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Through a 3rd party app.

On Tue, Dec 7, 2021 at 11:12 AM Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)> wrote:

Will do. For clarification, are people referring to listening to the feed on actual police scanners or through one of the third-party websites like Broadcastify?

Jerry Giaimis  
Maplewood Township Administrator  
*ICMA Credentialed Manager*

574 Valley Street  
Maplewood, New Jersey 07040  
(973) 762-8120 Ext. 2000

**From:** Dean Dafis  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 11:07 AM  
**To:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>; Greg Lembrich <[Glemblich@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Glemblich@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Kasia Piekarz <[kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com](mailto:kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com)>; Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Bailey Barnett <[BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

JERRY - please address and report back. Thanks in advance. I don't understand how one can be out and the other online as I thought they were linked.

Appreciate your insight.

Dean Dafis (*he, him, his*)

Deputy Mayor  
Maplewood Township  
(973) 762-8120, ext 2107

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**From:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 8:08:55 AM

**To:** Dean Dafis; Greg Lembrich; Kasia Piekarz

**Subject:** Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Good Morning Greg and Dean,

A resident has reached out again regarding the scanner that Kasia and I raised last week when it was brought to our attention. There is a suggestion from a resident that the scanner is being intentionally turned off as the fire scanner is still up. I don't understand the technology here, but I do feel the Board needs to raise this concern from a resident as transparency is key for better community-police relations.

I recognize that you are both volunteers too, so if I can help in any way (even with my limited tech knowledge), I am happy to do so.

I know you addressed this before (thank you, thank you) so hopefully this is an easy fix too.

Best,  
Erin

--  
Erin Scherzer

  
[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)

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Erin Scherzer

  
[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)

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[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)

--  
Erin Scherzer

  
[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)

## Albert Sally

---

**From:** Joseph Alvarez  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 11:27 AM  
**To:** Jerry Giaimis; Greg Lembrich; Dean Dafis  
**Cc:** Bailey Barnett; kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com; Frank McGehee; Victor DeLuca; Nancy Adams; Jamaine Cripe; Jimmy DeVaul; Albert Sally; jamaine9@me.com  
**Subject:** RE: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Ok Sir will take care of this asap

---

**From:** Jerry Giaimis  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 11:25 AM  
**To:** Joseph Alvarez <JAlvarez@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Greg Lembrich <Glembrich@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Dean Dafis <DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us>  
**Cc:** Bailey Barnett <BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com; Frank McGehee <FMcGehee@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Victor DeLuca <V.DeLuca@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Nancy Adams <Nadams@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Jamaine Cripe <JCripe@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Jimmy DeVaul <JDeVaul@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Albert Sally <ASally@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; jamaine9@me.com  
**Subject:** RE: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Thanks Chief, given the cost, you can just go ahead and effectuate the purchase.

Jerry Giaimis  
Maplewood Township Administrator  
*ICMA Credentialed Manager*

574 Valley Street  
Maplewood, New Jersey 07040  
(973) 762-8120 Ext. 2000

---

**From:** Joseph Alvarez  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 11:24 AM  
**To:** Greg Lembrich <Glembrich@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Dean Dafis <DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us>  
**Cc:** Jerry Giaimis <JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Bailey Barnett <BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com; Frank McGehee <FMcGehee@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Victor DeLuca <V.DeLuca@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Nancy Adams <Nadams@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Jamaine Cripe <JCripe@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Jimmy DeVaul <JDeVaul@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Albert Sally <ASally@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; jamaine9@me.com  
**Subject:** RE: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

I can get you a list on the equipment along with the cost it will be very minimal. Will have it by next week.

---

**From:** Greg Lembrich  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 10:39 AM  
**To:** Dean Dafis <DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us>  
**Cc:** Jerry Giaimis <JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Bailey Barnett <BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com; Frank McGehee <FMcGehee@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Victor DeLuca <V.DeLuca@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Nancy Adams <Nadams@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Jamaine Cripe

<[JCripe@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JCripe@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Jimmy DeVaul <[JDeVaul@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JDeVaul@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Albert Sally  
<[ASally@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:ASally@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; [jamine9@me.com](mailto:jamine9@me.com); Joseph Alvarez <[JAlvarez@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JAlvarez@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>

**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Dean,

I'm not precisely sure what equipment is required or the cost, nor the status of procuring or installing it. I do know that MFD did not have the requisite equipment as of the last Public Safety Committee report. If the Department has since obtained it, or at least been authorized to do so, then that is progress. Copying in Chief Alvarez, who may be able to provide an update; and apologies if my understanding did not reflect the latest status.

Greg

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On Dec 31, 2021, at 10:26 AM, Dean Dafis <[ddafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:ddafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)> wrote:

Greg - thanks for replying.

Just to clarify, earlier in the thread Chief Alvarez stated that it's 'an easy fix' and Jerry replied that he authorized the Chief to make the adjustment or the 'fix'. Is it our understanding now that regardless of whether it's an easy fix or not, we don't have the software or other equipment to do so? If so, do we know what that equipment is and/or how much it costs?

Ironically, something keeps getting lost in communication on this topic which further fuels public speculation.

Thanks.

Dean Dafis (*he, him, his*)

Deputy Mayor  
Maplewood Township  
(973) 762-8120, ext 2107

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---

**From:** Greg Lembrich

**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 9:15:00 AM

**To:** Erin Scherzer; Jerry Giaimis

**Cc:** Bailey Barnett; Dean Dafis; Kasia Piekarz; Frank McGehee; Victor DeLuca; Nancy Adams; Jamaine Cripe; Jimmy

DeVaul; Albert Sally

**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Erin,  
Maplewood Police radio communications are not encrypted; they can be heard by anyone who has a scanner. The issue this resident has raised is that the MPD radio feed used to be made available to Broadcastify and/or another web-based service that provides a website or scanner app that make local police, fire, EMS, etc. radio transmissions available online. The feed was made available via the Maplewood Fire Department at a time when the MPD and MFD used the same radio frequency. The MFD specifically makes its feed available publicly via online sources for safety reasons because it sometimes provides mutual aid to or receives mutual aid from jurisdictions where the fire departments or other local emergency services broadcast their communications on different frequencies. Since the MFD upgraded to new radios, they no longer use the same frequency as the MPD, so the MPD transmissions are now not included in the feed transmitted by MFD. Access was not "turned off" by MPD (nor was it ever "turned on") and remains available to the public via a scanner. To the extent that any third-party ever provided the MPD feed to online scanner services in the interim, which is certainly possible (the airwaves are public), I have no information about that.

While we have been advised that MFD could resume making the MPD radio communications available via the online scanner services/websites/apps, it would require the purchase and installation of additional equipment by the Township. It is not simply a matter of pushing a button or flipping a switch. The Township Committee will need to make a policy and budget decision regarding whether it wishes to move forward with such a plan. I note, however, my understanding that the town has no legal obligation to provide its radio communications to online scanner services, websites, or apps. As I mentioned, the communications are not encrypted or blocked in any way, but broadcast over public airwaves. The Fire Chief has stated that MFD can provide the MPD feed to online services if provided the proper equipment by the Township, and the Police Chief has stated no objection to doing so. The TC can decide how to proceed on this matter in 2022.

Greg

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---

**From:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 7:34:21 AM

**To:** Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>

**Cc:** Bailey Barnett <[BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Dean Dafis <[DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Greg Lembrich <[Glembrih@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Glembrih@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Kasia Piekarz <[kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com](mailto:kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Good Morning,

A resident reached out as there was an incident overnight in her neighborhood. Since the police scanner was still down, she and her neighbors were without information on something impacting their neighborhood. It is unsettling to have something happen in your neighborhood and you don't know what is actually happening, not to mention the importance of transparency. I am concerned the scanner hasn't been fixed yet. What is the latest with the repair and the eta on completion?

Residents have been raising this for years, and so fixing this scanner needs to happen.

Best,  
Erin

On Wed, Dec 15, 2021 at 12:10 PM Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)> wrote:

I did authorize him to proceed. I will follow up

Jerry Giaimis

Maplewood Township Administrator

*ICMA Credentialed Manager*

[574 Valley Street](#)

[Maplewood, New Jersey 07040](#)

(973) 762-8120 Ext. 2000

---

**From:** Dean Dafis

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 11:24 AM

**To:** Bailey Barnett <[BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>; Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>

**Cc:** Greg Lembrich <[Glemblich@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Glemblich@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Kasia Piekarz <[kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com](mailto:kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

According the the email thread, yes apparently Chief Alvarez said that it's an easy fix, but I'm not sure if he was tasked accordingly by Jerry.

If we can get this done then we will never hear about it again 🙄

Dean Dafis (*he, him, his*)

Deputy Mayor

Maplewood Township  
(973) 762-8120, ext 2107

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**From:** Bailey Barnett  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 11:07:46 AM  
**To:** Erin Scherzer; Jerry Giaimis  
**Cc:** Dean Dafis; Greg Lembrich; Kasia Piekarz  
**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Good Morning,

I believe there was a discussion where Chief Alvarez said he would be taking this on--can someone please confirm?

Best,

Bailey Barnett

Assistant Township Administrator

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Township of Maplewood

[574 Valley Street](#)

[Maplewood, New Jersey 07040](#)

---

**From:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 7:48:51 AM  
**To:** Jerry Giaimis

Cc: Bailey Barnett; Dean Dafis; Greg Lembrich; Kasia Piekarz

Subject: Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Hi Jerry,

I want to bump this email up. The resident has been trying to address this issue with the town for a while and keeps getting the run around (before your time) - I believe patience is understandably waning with this resident. What would be next steps to fix the scanner?

Erin

On Sat, Dec 11, 2021 at 11:29 AM Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)> wrote:

Jerry,

Thank you for explaining this. Members of the public are very upset about the lack of access and that this hasn't been resolved. I am also concerned too as people need the transparency.

How and when can it be resolved? Who from PD and FD will make sure these 3rd party apps can connect with MPD too? The public is understandably growing upset on this as it has been going on for years. Traditional scanners are pricey.

Erin

On Wed, Dec 8, 2021 at 10:35 AM Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)> wrote:

I spoke with the Chief, and he advises that the scanner is not "*being intentionally turned off.*" Anyone with a traditional Police Scanner can hear anything available on the Maplewood Police channel. Although they were aware 3<sup>rd</sup> party organizations (Broadcastify/Radio Reference) were distributing the feed, they never played any role in providing the information to do so. Therefore, they never did anything to "*turn it off.*"

What happened was this: The FD always provided those third-party apps the necessary information to broadcast the Police and Fire feed (something Chief DeVaul was completely unaware of). They were able to do this simultaneously when they had similar systems. When FD upgraded to a new system, they could no longer distribute both. The system's changing is the only reason it stopped; this was about two or three years ago. Because the PD was never involved in assisting the 3<sup>rd</sup> party apps, they were not aware the feed was removed, and when they found out it was, they knew they did nothing to further it, so they assumed it was a 3<sup>rd</sup> party app issue. The PD has no aversion to helping the apps; they just never helped them when it was up, so there was some confusion on how the information was even getting out in the first place.

That said, I spoke with Chief Alvarez, an expert in these issues, and he advises that it's an easy lift to get the PD on to these apps. I have no problem with this, as a traditional scanner can be expensive. The cost of the equipment needed to do this is minimal, and we may already have it

I hope this provides some clarification on the issue.

- Jerry

Jerry Giaimis  
Maplewood Township Administrator  
*ICMA Credentialed Manager*

574 Valley Street  
Maplewood, New Jersey 07040  
(973) 762-8120 Ext. 2000

**From:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 12:08 PM  
**To:** Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>  
**Cc:** Bailey Barnett <[BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Dean Dafis <[DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Greg Lembrich <[Glemblich@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Glemblich@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Kasia Piekarz <[kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com](mailto:kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Through a 3rd party app.

On Tue, Dec 7, 2021 at 11:12 AM Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)> wrote:

Will do. For clarification, are people referring to listening to the feed on actual police scanners or through one of the third-party websites like Broadcastify?

Jerry Giaimis  
Maplewood Township Administrator  
*ICMA Credentialed Manager*

574 Valley Street

Maplewood, New Jersey 07040

(973) 762-8120 Ext. 2000

**From:** Dean Dafis

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 11:07 AM

**To:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>; Greg Lembrich <[Glembrih@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Glembrih@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Kasia Piekarz <[kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com](mailto:kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com)>; Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Bailey Barnett <[BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>

**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

JERRY - please address and report back. Thanks in advance. I don't understand how one can be out and the other online as I thought they were linked.

Appreciate your insight.

Dean Dafis (*he, him, his*)

Deputy Mayor  
Maplewood Township  
(973) 762-8120, ext 2107

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**From:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 8:08:55 AM

**To:** Dean Dafis; Greg Lembrich; Kasia Piekarz

**Subject:** Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Good Morning Greg and Dean,

A resident has reached out again regarding the scanner that Kasia and I raised last week when it was brought to our attention. There is a suggestion from a resident that the scanner is being intentionally turned off as the fire scanner is still up. I don't understand the technology here, but I do feel the Board needs to raise this concern from a resident as transparency is key for better community-police relations.

I recognize that you are both volunteers too, so if I can help in any way (even with my limited tech knowledge), I am happy to do so.

I know you addressed this before (thank you, thank you) so hopefully this is an easy fix too.

Best,  
Erin

## Albert Sally

---

**From:** Dean Dafis  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 12:31 PM  
**To:** Albert Sally; Nancy Adams; Victor DeLuca; Greg Lembrich; Jerry Giaimis  
**Cc:** Jimmy DeVaul  
**Subject:** Re: Porter Rd

Thanks, DC Sally.

Was there a second vehicle? And, is Union taking over investigating the incident / looking for the persons who stole it?

Dean Dafis (*he, him, his*)

Deputy Mayor  
Maplewood Township  
(973) 762-8120, ext 2107

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**From:** Albert Sally  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 10:13:27 AM  
**To:** Dean Dafis; Nancy Adams; Victor DeLuca; Greg Lembrich; Jerry Giaimis  
**Cc:** Jimmy DeVaul  
**Subject:** FW: Porter Rd

---

**From:** Albert Sally  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 8:59 AM  
**To:** Frank McGehee <[FMcGehee@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:FMcGehee@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>  
**Cc:** Jimmy DeVaul <[JDeVaul@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JDeVaul@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Porter Rd

No Chase by police.

12/31/21 0255hrs

18 Porter Road was the location of a recovered stolen vehicle from Union. Officers responded and the vehicle was unoccupied and parked on the shrubs of the residence. The vehicle was towed by Maplewood PD. DB contacted Union and they determined it was stolen from their jurisdiction earlier this date

D/C Albert Sally

---

**From:** Frank McGehee <[FMcGehee@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:FMcGehee@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 7:39 AM

**To:** Dean Dafis <[DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Greg Lembrich <[Glembrich@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Glembrich@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Victor DeLuca <[V.DeLuca@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:V.DeLuca@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Nancy Adams <[Nadams@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Nadams@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Albert Sally <[ASally@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:ASally@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>

**Subject:** Re: Porter Rd

+ Chiefs and Jerry

and INTERNAL ONLY

**Chief Sally,**

Can you please provide us with a report from the desk sergeant and a narrative regarding the scanner this morning?

Thanks,  
Mayor Frank

Frank McGehee  
Mayor  
Township of Maplewood

---

**From:** Heather Saslovsky <[hjslas@gmail.com](mailto:hjslas@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 6:05:51 AM  
**To:** Frank McGehee; Dean Dafis; Greg Lembrich; Victor DeLuca; Nancy Adams  
**Subject:** Porter Rd

Good morning,

Please inform us of exactly what occurred with the chase last night that included a crash on Porter Rd.

Please include whether or not the suspect was ultimately located and taken into custody.

Once again, please let us know why the scanner is down. Per my neighbor it was pulled offline during the Hughes St incident. He was listening then.

Over the years Mr. Lembrich and the Chiefs have provided myself, local media, and the public with numerous excuses and promises regarding the scanner. Today my neighborhood needs to know and needs this rectified once and for all, since the MPD did nothing to inform us as to our safety or lack thereof.

We look forward to your response,  
Heather J. Saslovsky

## Albert Sally

---

**From:** Erin Scherzer <erinscherzer07040@gmail.com> on behalf of Erin Scherzer  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 12:39 PM  
**To:** Greg Lembrich  
**Cc:** Albert Sally; Bailey Barnett; Dean Dafis; Frank McGehee; Jamaine Cripe; Jerry Giaimis; Jimmy DeVaul; Kasia Piekarz; Nancy Adams; Victor DeLuca  
**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Greg,

I understand that the communications are not encrypted and can be heard on an actual scanner as this was explained when I reached out earlier this month in response to concerns raised by a resident. In the interest of transparency and recognizing the cost of a physical scanner, Town Administrator Giaimis approved on December 8, 2021 for the work to be done connect the scanner with the app as the Fire Chief said it was an easy fix, which was again confirmed on December 15, 2021. The resident reached out to Kasia and me again overnight (literally the first message I got when I turned my phone on when my red eye from California landed this morning) very upset given that an incident happened in her neighborhood and she and her neighbors had zero information that they used to get when the scanner app worked. While I don't have the tech skills to fix this issue, my email was to reconnect on something I left earlier this month with an understanding was a simple fix and would be a big win for the community, particularly for a neighborhood in Lightning Brook close to where the shooting happened in July.

Jerry and Bailey, I can't thank you enough for your attention to this matter in rapid speed given all going on with the town on many fronts. Also thank you to the MPD and MFD for all of their work to make this change possible (and figuring out the tech piece). Once the app connects to the scanner, would it be possible to have proactive press statement in the Village Green and Tap Into so residents know they have access? The police board can help on this if you would like.

Happy 2022 everyone!

Best,  
Erin

On Fri, Dec 31, 2021 at 9:15 AM Greg Lembrich <[Glembrih@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Glembrih@twp.maplewood.nj.us)> wrote:

Erin,  
Maplewood Police radio communications are not encrypted; they can be heard by anyone who has a scanner. The issue this resident has raised is that the MPD radio feed used to be made available to Broadcastify and/or another web-based service that provides a website or scanner app that make local police, fire, EMS, etc. radio transmissions available online. The feed was made available via the Maplewood Fire Department at a time when the MPD and MFD used the same radio frequency. The MFD specifically makes its feed available publicly via online sources for safety reasons because it sometimes provides mutual aid to or receives mutual aid from jurisdictions where the fire departments or other local emergency services broadcast their communications on different frequencies. Since the MFD upgraded to new radios, they no longer use the same frequency as the MPD, so the MPD transmissions are now not included in the feed transmitted by MFD. Access was not "turned off" by MPD (nor was it ever "turned on") and remains available to the public via a scanner. To the extent that any third-party ever provided the MPD feed to online scanner services in the interim, which is certainly possible (the airwaves are public), I have no information about that.

While we have been advised that MFD could resume making the MPD radio communications available via the online scanner services/websites/apps, it would require the purchase and installation of additional equipment by the Township. It is not simply a matter of pushing a button or flipping a switch. The Township Committee will need to

make a policy and budget decision regarding whether it wishes to move forward with such a plan. I note, however, my understanding that the town has no legal obligation to provide its radio communications to online scanner services, websites, or apps. As I mentioned, the communications are not encrypted or blocked in any way, but broadcast over public airwaves. The Fire Chief has stated that MFD can provide the MPD feed to online services if provided the proper equipment by the Township, and the Police Chief has stated no objection to doing so. The TC can decide how to proceed on this matter in 2022.

Greg

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---

**From:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 7:34:21 AM

**To:** Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>

**Cc:** Bailey Barnett <[BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Dean Dafis <[DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Greg Lembrich <[Glemblich@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Glemblich@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Kasia Piekarz <[kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com](mailto:kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Good Morning,

A resident reached out as there was an incident overnight in her neighborhood. Since the police scanner was still down, she and her neighbors were without information on something impacting their neighborhood. It is unsettling to have something happen in your neighborhood and you don't know what is actually happening, not to mention the importance of transparency. I am concerned the scanner hasn't been fixed yet. What is the latest with the repair and the eta on completion?

Residents have been raising this for years, and so fixing this scanner needs to happen.

Best,  
Erin

On Wed, Dec 15, 2021 at 12:10 PM Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)> wrote:

I did authorize him to proceed. I will follow up

Jerry Giaimis

Maplewood Township Administrator

*ICMA Credentialed Manager*

[574 Valley Street](#)

[Maplewood, New Jersey 07040](#)

(973) 762-8120 Ext. 2000

---

**From:** Dean Dafis  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 11:24 AM  
**To:** Bailey Barnett <[BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>; Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>  
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**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

According to the email thread, yes apparently Chief Alvarez said that it's an easy fix, but I'm not sure if he was tasked accordingly by Jerry.

If we can get this done then we will never hear about it again 🤔

Dean Dafis (*he, him, his*)

Deputy Mayor

Maplewood Township  
(973) 762-8120, ext 2107

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One Maplewood for All

---

**From:** Bailey Barnett  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 11:07:46 AM  
**To:** Erin Scherzer; Jerry Giaimis  
**Cc:** Dean Dafis; Greg Lembrich; Kasia Piekarz  
**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Good Morning,

I believe there was a discussion where Chief Alvarez said he would be taking this on--can someone please confirm?

Best,

Bailey Barnett

Assistant Township Administrator

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Township of Maplewood

[574 Valley Street](#)

[Maplewood, New Jersey 07040](#)

---

**From:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 7:48:51 AM

**To:** Jerry Giaimis

**Cc:** Bailey Barnett; Dean Dafis; Greg Lembrich; Kasia Piekarz

**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Hi Jerry,

I want to bump this email up. The resident has been trying to address this issue with the town for a while and keeps getting the run around (before your time) - I believe patience is understandably waning with this resident. What would be next steps to fix the scanner?

Erin

On Sat, Dec 11, 2021 at 11:29 AM Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)> wrote:

Jerry,

Thank you for explaining this. Members of the public are very upset about the lack of access and that this hasn't been resolved. I am also concerned too as people need the transparency.

How and when can it be resolved? Who from PD and FD will make sure these 3rd party apps can connect with MPD too? The public is understandably growing upset on this as it has been going on for years. Traditional scanners are pricey.

Erin

On Wed, Dec 8, 2021 at 10:35 AM Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)> wrote:

I spoke with the Chief, and he advises that the scanner is not "*being intentionally turned off.*" Anyone with a traditional Police Scanner can hear anything available on the Maplewood Police channel. Although they were aware 3<sup>rd</sup> party organizations (Broadcastify/Radio Reference) were distributing the feed, they never played any role in providing the information to do so. Therefore, they never did anything to "*turn it off.*"

What happened was this: The FD always provided those third-party apps the necessary information to broadcast the Police and Fire feed (something Chief DeVaul was completely unaware of). They were able to do this simultaneously when they had similar systems. When FD upgraded to a new system, they could no longer distribute both. The system's changing is the only reason it stopped; this was about two or three years ago. Because the PD was never involved in assisting the 3<sup>rd</sup> party apps, they were not aware the feed was removed, and when they found out it was, they knew they did nothing to further it, so they assumed it was a 3<sup>rd</sup> party app issue. The PD has no aversion to helping the apps; they just never helped them when it was up, so there was some confusion on how the information was even getting out in the first place.

That said, I spoke with Chief Alvarez, an expert in these issues, and he advises that it's an easy lift to get the PD on to these apps. I have no problem with this, as a traditional scanner can be expensive. The cost of the equipment needed to do this is minimal, and we may already have it

I hope this provides some clarification on the issue.

- Jerry

Jerry Giaimis

Maplewood Township Administrator

*ICMA Credentialed Manager*

[574 Valley Street](#)

[Maplewood, New Jersey 07040](#)

(973) 762-8120 Ext. 2000

**From:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 12:08 PM

**To:** Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>

**Cc:** Bailey Barnett <[BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Dean Dafis <[DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Greg Lembrich <[Glembrih@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Glembrih@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Kasia Piekarz <[kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com](mailto:kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Through a 3rd party app.

On Tue, Dec 7, 2021 at 11:12 AM Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)> wrote:

Will do. For clarification, are people referring to listening to the feed on actual police scanners or through one of the third-party websites like Broadcastify?

Jerry Giaimis

Maplewood Township Administrator

*ICMA Credentialed Manager*

[574 Valley Street](#)

Maplewood, New Jersey 07040

(973) 762-8120 Ext. 2000

---

**From:** Dean Dafis

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 11:07 AM

**To:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>; Greg Lembrich <[Glembrih@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Glembrih@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Kasia Piekarz <[kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com](mailto:kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com)>; Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Bailey Barnett <[BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>

**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

JERRY - please address and report back. Thanks in advance. I don't understand how one can be out and the other online as I thought they were linked.

Appreciate your insight.

Dean Dafis (*he, him, his*)

Deputy Mayor

Maplewood Township  
(973) 762-8120, ext 2107

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**From:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 8:08:55 AM

**To:** Dean Dafis; Greg Lembrich; Kasia Piekarz

**Subject:** Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Good Morning Greg and Dean,

A resident has reached out again regarding the scanner that Kasia and I raised last week when it was brought to our attention. There is a suggestion from a resident that the scanner is being intentionally turned off as the fire scanner is still up. I don't understand the technology here, but I do feel the Board needs to raise this concern from a resident as transparency is key for better community-police relations.

I recognize that you are both volunteers too, so if I can help in any way (even with my limited tech knowledge), I am happy to do so.

I know you addressed this before (thank you, thank you) so hopefully this is an easy fix too.

Best,

Erin

Erin Scherzer

  
[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)

Erin Scherzer

  
[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)

Erin Scherzer

  
[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)

Erin Scherzer

## Albert Sally

---

**From:** Albert Sally  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 12:48 PM  
**To:** Dean Dafis  
**Subject:** RE: Porter Rd

Union investigation, they checked for prints on scene last night. Caller reports a second car left the scene.

Unrelated, we just had a stolen vehicle from Richards Gas station. At 1157am subjects entered an unoccupied Land Rover Wagon colored back stolen once it came through the car wash. 4 black males wearing black jackets 1 with Orange vest. The vehicle was last seen East on Springfield Avenue towards Irvington. Irvington PD notified,

---

**From:** Dean Dafis <DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 12:31 PM  
**To:** Albert Sally <ASally@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Nancy Adams <Nadams@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Victor DeLuca <V.DeLuca@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Greg Lembrich <Glembrich@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Jerry Giaimis <JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us>  
**Cc:** Jimmy DeVaul <JDeVaul@twp.maplewood.nj.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Porter Rd

Thanks, DC Sally.

Was there a second vehicle? And, is Union taking over investigating the incident / looking for the persons who stole it?

Dean Dafis (*he, him, his*)

Deputy Mayor  
Maplewood Township  
(973) 762-8120, ext 2107

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**From:** Albert Sally  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 10:13:27 AM  
**To:** Dean Dafis; Nancy Adams; Victor DeLuca; Greg Lembrich; Jerry Giaimis  
**Cc:** Jimmy DeVaul  
**Subject:** FW: Porter Rd

---

**From:** Albert Sally  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 8:59 AM  
**To:** Frank McGehee <[FMcGehee@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:FMcGehee@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>  
**Cc:** Jimmy DeVaul <[JDeVaul@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JDeVaul@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Porter Rd

No Chase by police.

12/31/21 0255hrs

18 Porter Road was the location of a recovered stolen vehicle from Union. Officers responded and the vehicle was unoccupied and parked on the shrubs of the residence. The vehicle was towed by Maplewood PD. DB contacted Union and they determined it was stolen from their jurisdiction earlier this date

D/C Albert Sally

---

**From:** Frank McGehee <[FMcGehee@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:FMcGehee@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 7:39 AM  
**To:** Dean Dafis <[DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Greg Lembrich <[Glemblich@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Glemblich@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Victor DeLuca <[V.DeLuca@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:V.DeLuca@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Nancy Adams <[Nadams@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Nadams@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Albert Sally <[ASally@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:ASally@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Porter Rd

+ Chiefs and Jerry

and INTERNAL ONLY

Chief Sally,

Can you please provide us with a report from the desk sergeant and a narrative regarding the scanner this morning?

Thanks,  
Mayor Frank

Frank McGehee  
Mayor  
Township of Maplewood

---

**From:** Heather Saslovsky <[hjslas@gmail.com](mailto:hjslas@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 6:05:51 AM  
**To:** Frank McGehee; Dean Dafis; Greg Lembrich; Victor DeLuca; Nancy Adams  
**Subject:** Porter Rd

Good morning,

Please inform us of exactly what occurred with the chase last night that included a crash on Porter Rd.

Please include whether or not the suspect was ultimately located and taken into custody.

Once again, please let us know why the scanner is down. Per my neighbor it was pulled offline during the Hughes St incident. He was listening then.

Over the years Mr. Lembrich and the Chiefs have provided myself, local media, and the public with numerous excuses and promises regarding the scanner. Today my neighborhood needs to know and needs this rectified once and for all, since the MPD did nothing to inform us as to our safety or lack thereof.

We look forward to your response,  
Heather J. Saslovsky

## Albert Sally

---

**From:** Jimmy DeVaul  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 12:50 PM  
**To:** Erin Scherzer; Greg Lembrich  
**Cc:** Albert Sally; Bailey Barnett; Dean Dafis; Frank McGehee; Jamaine Cripe; Jerry Giaimis; Kasia Piekarz; Nancy Adams; Victor DeLuca  
**Subject:** RE: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

The department posts the press release on our website. The press release is updated at least twice per month. The release is shared with all local media including the village green. We don't post on a daily basis unless there is a community safety issue. We also send nixle alerts for those who sign up to receive them related to certain emergencies and road closures.

Chief

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

**From:** Erin Scherzer <erinscherzer07040@gmail.com>  
**Date:** 12/31/21 12:40 (GMT-05:00)  
**To:** Greg Lembrich <Glembrich@twp.maplewood.nj.us>  
**Cc:** Albert Sally <ASally@twp.maplewood.nj.us>, Bailey Barnett <BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us>, Dean Dafis <DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us>, Frank McGehee <FMcGehee@twp.maplewood.nj.us>, Jamaine Cripe <JCripe@twp.maplewood.nj.us>, Jerry Giaimis <JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us>, Jimmy DeVaul <JDeVaul@twp.maplewood.nj.us>, Kasia Piekarz <kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com>, Nancy Adams <Nadams@twp.maplewood.nj.us>, Victor DeLuca <V.DeLuca@twp.maplewood.nj.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Greg,

I understand that the communications are not encrypted and can be heard on an actual scanner as this was explained when I reached out earlier this month in response to concerns raised by a resident. In the interest of transparency and recognizing the cost of a physical scanner, Town Administrator Giaimis approved on December 8, 2021 for the work to be done connect the scanner with the app as the Fire Chief said it was an easy fix, which was again confirmed on December 15, 2021. The resident reached out to Kasia and me again overnight (literally the first message I got when I turned my phone on when my red eye from California landed this morning) very upset given that an incident happened in her neighborhood and she and her neighbors had zero information that they used to get when the scanner app worked. While I don't have the tech skills to fix this issue, my email was to reconnect on something I left earlier this month with an understanding was a simple fix and would be a big win for the community, particularly for a neighborhood in Lightning Brook close to where the shooting happened in July.

Jerry and Bailey, I can't thank you enough for your attention to this matter in rapid speed given all going on with the town on many fronts. Also thank you to the MPD and MFD for all of their work to make this change possible (and figuring out the tech piece). Once the app connects to the scanner, would it be possible to have proactive press

statement in the Village Green and Tap Into so residents know they have access? The police board can help on this if you would like.

Happy 2022 everyone!

Best,  
Erin

On Fri, Dec 31, 2021 at 9:15 AM Greg Lembrich <[Glemblich@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Glemblich@twp.maplewood.nj.us)> wrote:

Erin,

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Jerry Giaimis

Maplewood Township Administrator

*ICMA Credentialed Manager*

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**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

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Dean Dafis (*he, him, his*)

Deputy Mayor

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Best,

Bailey Barnett

Assistant Township Administrator

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Township of Maplewood

[574 Valley Street](#)

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**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 7:48:51 AM  
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**Cc:** Bailey Barnett; Dean Dafis; Greg Lembrich; Kasia Piekarz  
**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

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Erin

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I hope this provides some clarification on the issue.

- Jerry

Jerry Giaimis

Maplewood Township Administrator

*ICMA Credentialed Manager*

[574 Valley Street](#)

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(973) 762-8120 Ext. 2000

**From:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 12:08 PM

**To:** Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>

**Cc:** Bailey Barnett <[BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Dean Dafis <[DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Greg Lembrich <[Glembrich@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Glembrich@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Kasia Piekarz <[kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com](mailto:kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Through a 3rd party app.

On Tue, Dec 7, 2021 at 11:12 AM Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)> wrote:

Will do. For clarification, are people referring to listening to the feed on actual police scanners or through one of the third-party websites like Broadcastify?

Jerry Giaimis

Maplewood Township Administrator

*ICMA Credentialed Manager*

[574 Valley Street](#)

[Maplewood, New Jersey 07040](#)

(973) 762-8120 Ext. 2000

---

**From:** Dean Dafis

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 11:07 AM

**To:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>; Greg Lembrich <[Glembrich@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Glembrich@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Kasia Piekarz <[kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com](mailto:kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com)>; Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Bailey Barnett <[BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>

**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

JERRY - please address and report back. Thanks in advance. I don't understand how one can be out and the other online as I thought they were linked.

Appreciate your insight.

Dean Dafis (*he, him, his*)

Deputy Mayor

Maplewood Township  
(973) 762-8120, ext 2107

Representation & Visibility Matter, Save Lives

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One Maplewood for All

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**From:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 8:08:55 AM

**To:** Dean Dafis; Greg Lembrich; Kasia Piekarz

**Subject:** Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Good Morning Greg and Dean,

A resident has reached out again regarding the scanner that Kasia and I raised last week when it was brought to our attention. There is a suggestion from a resident that the scanner is being intentionally turned off as the fire scanner is still up. I don't understand the technology here, but I do feel the Board needs to raise this concern from a resident as transparency is key for better community-police relations.

I recognize that you are both volunteers too, so if I can help in any way (even with my limited tech knowledge), I am happy to do so.

I know you addressed this before (thank you, thank you) so hopefully this is an easy fix too.

Best,

Frank McGehee  
Mayor  
Township of Maplewood

---

**From:** Heather Saslovsky <[hjslas@gmail.com](mailto:hjslas@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 6:05:51 AM  
**To:** Frank McGehee; Dean Dafis; Greg Lembrich; Victor DeLuca; Nancy Adams  
**Subject:** Porter Rd

Good morning,

Please inform us of exactly what occurred with the chase last night that included a crash on Porter Rd.

Please include whether or not the suspect was ultimately located and taken into custody.

Once again, please let us know why the scanner is down. Per my neighbor it was pulled offline during the Hughes St incident. He was listening then.

Over the years Mr. Lembrich and the Chiefs have provided myself, local media, and the public with numerous excuses and promises regarding the scanner. Today my neighborhood needs to know and needs this rectified once and for all, since the MPD did nothing to inform us as to our safety or lack thereof.

We look forward to your response,  
Heather J. Saslovsky

## Albert Sally

---

**From:** Dean Dafis  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 12:52 PM  
**To:** Albert Sally  
**Subject:** Re: Porter Rd

Thanks, Chief.

Dean Dafis (*he, him, his*)

Deputy Mayor  
Maplewood Township  
(973) 762-8120, ext 2107

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**From:** Albert Sally  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 12:47:37 PM  
**To:** Dean Dafis  
**Subject:** RE: Porter Rd

Union investigation, they checked for prints on scene last night. Caller reports a second car left the scene.

Unrelated, we just had a stolen vehicle from Richards Gas station. At 1157am subjects entered an unoccupied Land Rover Wagon colored back stolen once it came through the car wash. 4 black males wearing black jackets 1 with Orange vest. The vehicle was last seen East on Springfield Avenue towards Irvington. Irvington PD notified,

---

**From:** Dean Dafis <DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 12:31 PM  
**To:** Albert Sally <ASally@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Nancy Adams <Nadams@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Victor DeLuca <V.DeLuca@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Greg Lembrich <Glembri@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Jerry Giaimis <JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us>  
**Cc:** Jimmy DeVaul <JDeVaul@twp.maplewood.nj.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Porter Rd

Thanks, DC Sally.

Was there a second vehicle? And, is Union taking over investigating the incident / looking for the persons who stole it?

Dean Dafis (*he, him, his*)

Deputy Mayor  
Maplewood Township  
(973) 762-8120, ext 2107

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**From:** Albert Sally  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 10:13:27 AM  
**To:** Dean Dafis; Nancy Adams; Victor DeLuca; Greg Lembrich; Jerry Giaimis  
**Cc:** Jimmy DeVaul  
**Subject:** FW: Porter Rd

---

**From:** Albert Sally  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 8:59 AM  
**To:** Frank McGehee <[FMcGehee@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:FMcGehee@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>  
**Cc:** Jimmy DeVaul <[JDeVaul@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JDeVaul@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: Porter Rd

No Chase by police.

12/31/21 0255hrs

18 Porter Road was the location of a recovered stolen vehicle from Union. Officers responded and the vehicle was unoccupied and parked on the shrubs of the residence. The vehicle was towed by Maplewood PD. DB contacted Union and they determined it was stolen from their jurisdiction earlier this date

D/C Albert Sally

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**From:** Frank McGehee <[FMcGehee@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:FMcGehee@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 7:39 AM  
**To:** Dean Dafis <[DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Greg Lembrich <[Glebrich@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Glebrich@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Victor DeLuca <[V.DeLuca@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:V.DeLuca@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Nancy Adams <[Nadams@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Nadams@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Albert Sally <[ASally@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:ASally@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>  
**Subject:** Re: Porter Rd

+ Chiefs and Jerry

and INTERNAL ONLY

**Chief Sally,**

Can you please provide us with a report from the desk sergeant and a narrative regarding the scanner this morning?

Thanks,  
Mayor Frank

## Albert Sally

---

**From:** Greg Lembrich  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 1:48 PM  
**To:** Erin Scherzer  
**Cc:** Albert Sally; Bailey Barnett; Dean Dafis; Frank McGehee; Jamaine Cripe; Jerry Giaimis; Jimmy DeVaul; Kasia Piekarz; Nancy Adams; Victor DeLuca; Joseph Alvarez  
**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

It's time for me to go. For what it's worth, I don't think this concern from this resident actually has any relation to genuine efforts to improve public safety. In fact, I truly hope to never see or hear from this resident ever again. She is other people's problem now. Good luck and Happy New Year.

Greg

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**From:** Erin Scherzer <erinscherzer07040@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 12:39:26 PM  
**To:** Greg Lembrich <Glembrih@twp.maplewood.nj.us>  
**Cc:** Albert Sally <ASally@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Bailey Barnett <BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Dean Dafis <DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Frank McGehee <FMcGehee@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Jamaine Cripe <JCripe@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Jerry Giaimis <JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Jimmy DeVaul <JDeVaul@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Kasia Piekarz <kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com>; Nancy Adams <nadams@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Victor DeLuca <V.DeLuca@twp.maplewood.nj.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Greg,

I understand that the communications are not encrypted and can be heard on an actual scanner as this was explained when I reached out earlier this month in response to concerns raised by a resident. In the interest of transparency and recognizing the cost of a physical scanner, Town Administrator Giaimis approved on December 8, 2021 for the work to be done connect the scanner with the app as the Fire Chief said it was an easy fix, which was again confirmed on December 15, 2021. The resident reached out to Kasia and me again overnight (literally the first message I got when I turned my phone on when my red eye from California landed this morning) very upset given that an incident happened in her neighborhood and she and her neighbors had zero information that they used to get when the scanner app worked. While I don't have the tech skills to fix this issue, my email was to reconnect on something I left earlier this month with an understanding was a simple fix and would be a big win for the community, particularly for a neighborhood in Lightning Brook close to where the shooting happened in July.

Jerry and Bailey, I can't thank you enough for your attention to this matter in rapid speed given all going on with the town on many fronts. Also thank you to the MPD and MFD for all of their work to make this change possible (and figuring out the tech piece). Once the app connects to the scanner, would it be possible to have proactive press statement in the Village Green and Tap Into so residents know they have access? The police board can help on this if you would like.

Happy 2022 everyone!

Best,  
Erin

On Fri, Dec 31, 2021 at 9:15 AM Greg Lembrich <[Glembri@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Glembri@twp.maplewood.nj.us)> wrote:

Erin,

Maplewood Police radio communications are not encrypted; they can be heard by anyone who has a scanner. The issue this resident has raised is that the MPD radio feed used to be made available to Broadcastify and/or another web-based service that provides a website or scanner app that make local police, fire, EMS, etc. radio transmissions available online. The feed was made available via the Maplewood Fire Department at a time when the MPD and MFD used the same radio frequency. The MFD specifically makes its feed available publicly via online sources for safety reasons because it sometimes provides mutual aid to or receives mutual aid from jurisdictions where the fire departments or other local emergency services broadcast their communications on different frequencies. Since the MFD upgraded to new radios, they no longer use the same frequency as the MPD, so the MPD transmissions are now not included in the feed transmitted by MFD. Access was not "turned off" by MPD (nor was it ever "turned on") and remains available to the public via a scanner. To the extent that any third-party ever provided the MPD feed to online scanner services in the interim, which is certainly possible (the airwaves are public), I have no information about that.

While we have been advised that MFD could resume making the MPD radio communications available via the online scanner services/websites/apps, it would require the purchase and installation of additional equipment by the Township. It is not simply a matter of pushing a button or flipping a switch. The Township Committee will need to make a policy and budget decision regarding whether it wishes to move forward with such a plan. I note, however, my understanding that the town has no legal obligation to provide its radio communications to online scanner services, websites, or apps. As I mentioned, the communications are not encrypted or blocked in any way, but broadcast over public airwaves. The Fire Chief has stated that MFD can provide the MPD feed to online services if provided the proper equipment by the Township, and the Police Chief has stated no objection to doing so. The TC can decide how to proceed on this matter in 2022.

Greg

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---

**From:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 7:34:21 AM

**To:** Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>

**Cc:** Bailey Barnett <[BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Dean Dafis <[DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Greg Lembrich <[Glembri@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Glembri@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Kasia Piekarz <[kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com](mailto:kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Good Morning,

A resident reached out as there was an incident overnight in her neighborhood. Since the police scanner was still down, she and her neighbors were without information on something impacting their neighborhood. It is unsettling to have something happen in your neighborhood and you don't know what is actually happening, not to mention the importance of transparency. I am concerned the scanner hasn't been fixed yet. What is the latest with the repair and the eta on completion?

Residents have been raising this for years, and so fixing this scanner needs to happen.

Best,  
Erin

On Wed, Dec 15, 2021 at 12:10 PM Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)> wrote:

I did authorize him to proceed. I will follow up

Jerry Giaimis

Maplewood Township Administrator

*ICMA Credentialed Manager*

[574 Valley Street](#)

[Maplewood, New Jersey 07040](#)

(973) 762-8120 Ext. 2000

---

**From:** Dean Dafis

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 11:24 AM

**To:** Bailey Barnett <[BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>; Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>

**Cc:** Greg Lembrich <[Glemblich@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Glemblich@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Kasia Piekarz <[kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com](mailto:kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

According to the email thread, yes apparently Chief Alvarez said that it's an easy fix, but I'm not sure if he was tasked accordingly by Jerry.

If we can get this done then we will never hear about it again 🙏

Dean Dafis (*he, him, his*)

Deputy Mayor

Maplewood Township

(973) 762-8120, ext 2107

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**From:** Bailey Barnett  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 11:07:46 AM  
**To:** Erin Scherzer; Jerry Giaimis  
**Cc:** Dean Dafis; Greg Lembrich; Kasia Piekarz  
**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Good Morning,

I believe there was a discussion where Chief Alvarez said he would be taking this on--can someone please confirm?

Best,

Bailey Barnett

Assistant Township Administrator

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Township of Maplewood

[574 Valley Street](#)

[Maplewood, New Jersey 07040](#)

---

**From:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 7:48:51 AM  
**To:** Jerry Giaimis

**Cc:** Bailey Barnett; Dean Dafis; Greg Lembrich; Kasia Piekarz  
**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Hi Jerry,

I want to bump this email up. The resident has been trying to address this issue with the town for a while and keeps getting the run around (before your time) - I believe patience is understandably waning with this resident. What would be next steps to fix the scanner?

Erin

On Sat, Dec 11, 2021 at 11:29 AM Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)> wrote:

Jerry,

Thank you for explaining this. Members of the public are very upset about the lack of access and that this hasn't been resolved. I am also concened too as people need the transparency.

How and when can it be resolved? Who from PD and FD will make sure these 3rd party apps can connect with MPD too? The public is understandably growing upset on this as it has been going on for years. Traditional scanners are pricey.

Erin

On Wed, Dec 8, 2021 at 10:35 AM Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)> wrote:

I spoke with the Chief, and he advises that the scanner is not "*being intentionally turned off.*" Anyone with a traditional Police Scanner can hear anything available on the Maplewood Police channel. Although they were aware 3<sup>rd</sup> party organizations (Broadcastify/Radio Reference) were distributing the feed, they never played any role in providing the information to do so. Therefore, they never did anything to "*turn it off.*"

What happened was this: The FD always provided those third-party apps the necessary information to broadcast the Police and Fire feed (something Chief DeVaul was completely unaware of). They were able to do this simultaneously when they had similar systems. When FD upgraded to a new system, they could no longer distribute both. The system's changing is the only reason it stopped; this was about two or three years ago. Because the PD was never involved in assisting the 3<sup>rd</sup> party apps, they were not aware the feed was removed, and when they found out it was, they knew they did nothing to further it, so they assumed it was a 3<sup>rd</sup> party app issue. The PD has no aversion to helping the apps; they just never helped them when it was up, so there was some confusion on how the information was even getting out in the first place.

That said, I spoke with Chief Alvarez, an expert in these issues, and he advises that it's an easy lift to get the PD on to these apps. I have no problem with this, as a traditional scanner can be expensive. The cost of the equipment needed to do this is minimal, and we may already have it

I hope this provides some clarification on the issue.

- Jerry

Jerry Giaimis

Maplewood Township Administrator

*ICMA Credentialed Manager*

[574 Valley Street](#)

[Maplewood, New Jersey 07040](#)

(973) 762-8120 Ext. 2000

**From:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 12:08 PM

**To:** Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>

**Cc:** Bailey Barnett <[BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Dean Dafis <[DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:DDafis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Greg Lembrich <[Glemblich@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Glemblich@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Kasia Piekarz <[kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com](mailto:kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Through a 3rd party app.

On Tue, Dec 7, 2021 at 11:12 AM Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)> wrote:

Will do. For clarification, are people referring to listening to the feed on actual police scanners or through one of the third-party websites like Broadcastify?

Jerry Giaimis

Maplewood Township Administrator

*ICMA Credentialed Manager*

[574 Valley Street](#)

[Maplewood, New Jersey 07040](#)

(973) 762-8120 Ext. 2000

---

**From:** Dean Dafis

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 11:07 AM

**To:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>; Greg Lembrich <[Glembrih@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Glembrih@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Kasia Piekarz <[kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com](mailto:kasia.piekarz.maplewood@gmail.com)>; Jerry Giaimis <[JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>; Bailey Barnett <[BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us)>

**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

JERRY - please address and report back. Thanks in advance. I don't understand how one can be out and the other online as I thought they were linked.

Appreciate your insight.

Dean Dafis (*he, him, his*)

Deputy Mayor

Maplewood Township  
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**From:** Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzer07040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 7, 2021 8:08:55 AM  
**To:** Dean Dafis; Greg Lembrich; Kasia Piekarz  
**Subject:** Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Good Morning Greg and Dean,

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I recognize that you are both volunteers too, so if I can help in any way (even with my limited tech knowledge), I am happy to do so.

I know you addressed this before (thank you, thank you) so hopefully this is an easy fix too.

Best,

Erin

--  
Erin Scherzer

## Albert Sally

---

**From:** Frank McGehee  
**Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2022 2:35 PM  
**To:** Jerry Giaimis; Jimmy DeVaul; Albert Sally; Joseph Alvarez; Bailey Barnett  
**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

GA!

Question heading into our Public Safety meeting this Wednesday night, **has the scanner issue been put to rest/fixed?**

Per Dean **If we can get this done then we will never hear about it again** 🤔

Please advise. I need to know where we are with this issue WELL BEFORE our meeting.

With Gratitude

Frank McGehee  
Maplewood Township Committee

---

**From:** Erin Scherzer <erinscherzer07040@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 12:39:26 PM

Greg,

I understand that the communications are not encrypted and can be heard on an actual scanner as this was explained when I reached out earlier this month in response to concerns raised by a resident. In the interest of transparency and recognizing the cost of a physical scanner, Town Administrator Giaimis approved on December 8, 2021 for the work to be done connect the scanner with the app as the Fire Chief said it was an easy fix, which was again confirmed on December 15, 2021. The resident reached out to Kasia and me again overnight (literally the first message I got when I turned my phone on when my red eye from California landed this morning) very upset given that an incident happened in her neighborhood and she and her neighbors had zero information that they used to get when the scanner app worked. While I don't have the tech skills to fix this issue, my email was to reconnect on something I left earlier this month with an understanding was a simple fix and would be a big win for the community, particularly for a neighborhood in Lightning Brook close to where the shooting happened in July.

Jerry and Bailey, I can't thank you enough for your attention to this matter in rapid speed given all going on with the town on many fronts. Also thank you to the MPD and MFD for all of their work to make this change possible (and figuring out the tech piece). Once the app connects to the scanner, would it be possible to have proactive press statement in the Village Green and Tap Into so residents know they have access? The police board can help on this if you would like.

Happy 2022 everyone!

Best,  
Erin

On Fri, Dec 31, 2021 at 9:15 AM Greg Lembrich

<Glembrich@twp.maplewood.nj.us<mailto:Glembrich@twp.maplewood.nj.us>> wrote:

Erin,  
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Greg

---

From: Erin Scherzer <erinscherzero7040@gmail.com<mailto:erinscherzero7040@gmail.com>>

Sent: Friday, December 31, 2021 7:34:21 AM

Good Morning,

A resident reached out as there was an incident overnight in her neighborhood. Since the police scanner was still down, she and her neighbors were without information on something impacting their neighborhood. It is unsettling to have something happen in your neighborhood and you don't know what is actually happening, not to mention the importance of transparency. I am concerned the scanner hasn't been fixed yet. What is the latest with the repair and the eta on completion?

Residents have been raising this for years, and so fixing this scanner needs to happen.

Best,  
Erin

On Wed, Dec 15, 2021 at 12:10 PM Jerry Giaimis

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I did authorize him to proceed. I will follow up

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Sent: Wednesday, December 15, 2021 11:24 AM

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**If we can get this done then we will never hear about it again 🙄**

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From: Bailey Barnett

Sent: Wednesday, December 15, 2021 11:07:46 AM

Good Morning,

I believe there was a discussion where **Chief Alvarez said he would be taking this on--can someone please confirm?**

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From: Erin Scherzer <erinscherzero7040@gmail.com<mailto:erinscherzero7040@gmail.com>>

Sent: Wednesday, December 15, 2021 7:48:51 AM

Hi Jerry,

I want to bump this email up. The resident has been trying to address this issue with the town for a while and keeps getting the run around (before your time) - I believe patience is understandably waning with this resident. What would be next steps to fix the scanner?

Erin

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Thank you for explaining this. Members of the public are very upset about the lack of access and that this hasn't been resolved. I am also concerned too as people need the transparency.

*How and when can it be resolved? Who from PD and FD will make sure these 3rd party apps can connect with MPD too? The public is understandably growing upset on this as it has been going on for years. Traditional scanners are pricey.*

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What happened was this: The FD always provided those third-party apps the necessary information to broadcast the Police and Fire feed (something Chief DeVaul was completely unaware of). They were able to do this simultaneously when they had similar systems. When FD upgraded to a new system, they could no longer distribute both. The system's changing is the only reason it stopped; this was about two or three years ago. Because the PD was never involved in assisting the 3rd party apps, they were not aware the feed was removed, and when they found out it was, they knew they did nothing to further it, so they assumed it was a 3rd party app issue. The PD has no aversion to helping the apps; they just never helped them when it was up, so there was some confusion on how the information was even getting out in the first place.

That said, I spoke with Chief Alvarez, an expert in these issues, and he advises that it's an easy lift to get the PD on to these apps. I have no problem with this, as a traditional scanner can be expensive. The cost of the equipment needed to do this is minimal, and we may already have it

I hope this provides some clarification on the issue.

From: Erin Scherzer <erinscherzer07040@gmail.com<mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com>>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 12:08 PM

Through a 3rd party app.

On Tue, Dec 7, 2021 at 11:12 AM Jerry Giaimis  
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JERRY - please address and report back. Thanks in advance. I don't understand how one can be out and the other online as I thought they were linked.

Appreciate your insight.

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From: Erin Scherzer <erinscherzer07040@gmail.com<mailto:erinscherzer07040@gmail.com>>  
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 8:08:55 AM

Good Morning Greg and Dean,

A resident has reached out again regarding the scanner that Kasia and I raised last week when it was brought to our attention. There is a suggestion from a resident that the scanner is being intentionally turned off as the fire scanner

is still up. I don't understand the technology here, but I do feel the Board needs to raise this concern from a resident as transparency is key for better community-police relations.

I recognize that you are both volunteers too, so if I can help in any way (even with my limited tech knowledge), I am happy to do so.

I know you addressed this before (thank you, thank you) so hopefully this is an easy fix too.

## Albert Sally

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**From:** Joseph Alvarez  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 7:21 AM  
**To:** Frank McGehee; Jerry Giaimis; Jimmy DeVaul; Albert Sally; Bailey Barnett  
**Subject:** RE: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

Yes Sir it was just waiting on a part from IT and we will be up and running.

---

**From:** Frank McGehee  
**Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2022 2:35 PM  
**To:** Jerry Giaimis <JGiaimis@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Jimmy DeVaul <JDeVaul@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Albert Sally <ASally@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Joseph Alvarez <JAlvarez@twp.maplewood.nj.us>; Bailey Barnett <BBarnett@twp.maplewood.nj.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Concern from Resident - Police Scanner

GA!

Question heading into our Public Safety meeting this Wednesday night, **has the scanner issue been put to rest/fixed?**

Per Dean ***If we can get this done then we will never hear about it again*** 🙄

Please advise. I need to know where we are with this issue WELL BEFORE our meeting.

With Gratitude

Frank McGehee  
Maplewood Township Committee

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**From:** Erin Scherzer <erinscherzero7040@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 31, 2021 12:39:26 PM

Greg,

I understand that the communications are not encrypted and can be heard on an actual scanner as this was explained when I reached out earlier this month in response to concerns raised by a resident. In the interest of transparency and recognizing the cost of a physical scanner, Town Administrator Giaimis approved on December 8, 2021 for the work to be done connect the scanner with the app as the Fire Chief said it was an easy fix, which was again confirmed on December 15, 2021. The resident reached out to Kasia and me again overnight (literally the first message I got when I turned my phone on when my red eye from California landed this morning) very upset given that an incident happened in her neighborhood and she and her neighbors had zero information that they used to get when the scanner app worked. While I don't have the tech skills to fix this issue, my email was to reconnect on something I left earlier this month with an understanding was a simple fix and would be a big win for the

community, particularly for a neighborhood in Lightning Brook close to where the shooting happened in July.

Jerry and Bailey, I can't thank you enough for your attention to this matter in rapid speed given all going on with the town on many fronts. Also thank you to the MPD and MFD for all of their work to make this change possible (and figuring out the tech piece). Once the app connects to the scanner, would it be possible to have proactive press statement in the Village Green and Tap Into so residents know they have access? The police board can help on this if you would like.

Happy 2022 everyone!

Best,  
Erin

On Fri, Dec 31, 2021 at 9:15 AM Greg Lembrich

<[Glembrich@twp.maplewood.nj.us](mailto:Glembrich@twp.maplewood.nj.us)<<mailto:Glembrich@twp.maplewood.nj.us>>> wrote:

Erin,  
Maplewood Police radio communications are not encrypted; they can be heard by anyone who has a scanner. The issue this resident has raised is that the MPD radio feed used to be made available to Broadcastify and/or another web-based service that provides a website or scanner app that make local police, fire, EMS, etc. radio transmissions available online. The feed was made available via the Maplewood Fire Department at a time when the MPD and MFD used the same radio frequency. The MFD specifically makes its feed available publicly via online sources for safety reasons because it sometimes provides mutual aid to or receives mutual aid from jurisdictions where the fire departments or other local emergency services broadcast their communications on different frequencies. Since the MFD upgraded to new radios, they no longer use the same frequency as the MPD, so the MPD transmissions are now not included in the feed transmitted by MFD. Access was not "turned off" by MPD (nor was it ever "turned on") and remains available to the public via a scanner. To the extent that any third-party ever provided the MPD feed to online scanner services in the interim, which is certainly possible (the airwaves are public), I have no information about that.

While we have been advised that MFD could resume making the MPD radio communications available via the online scanner services/websites/apps, it would require the purchase and installation of additional equipment by the Township. It is not simply a matter of pushing a button or flipping a switch. The Township Committee will need to make a policy and budget decision regarding whether it wishes to move forward with such a plan. I note, however, my understanding that the town has no legal obligation to provide its radio communications to online scanner services, websites, or apps. As I mentioned, the communications are not encrypted or blocked in any way, but broadcast over public airwaves. The Fire Chief has stated that MFD can provide the MPD feed to online services if provided the proper equipment by the Township, and the Police Chief has stated no objection to doing so. The TC can decide how to proceed on this matter in 2022.

Greg

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From: Erin Scherzer <[erinscherzero7040@gmail.com](mailto:erinscherzero7040@gmail.com)<<mailto:erinscherzero7040@gmail.com>>>

Sent: Friday, December 31, 2021 7:34:21 AM

Good Morning,

A resident reached out as there was an incident overnight in her neighborhood. Since the police scanner was still down, she and her neighbors were without information on something impacting their neighborhood. It is unsettling to have something happen in your neighborhood and you don't know what is actually happening, not to mention the importance of transparency. I am concerned the scanner hasn't been fixed yet. What is the latest with the repair and the eta on completion?

Residents have been raising this for years, and so fixing this scanner needs to happen.

Best,  
Erin

On Wed, Dec 15, 2021 at 12:10 PM Jerry Giaimis  
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