DCx: A Public Innovation Challenge from OCTO, Verizon 5G Lab, and US Ignite

Working closely with industry and nonprofit partners over the summer of 2019, the DC Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) invited local developers, engineers, and innovators to engage and help craft the future of public safety and public health technology leveraging 5G, a Verizon service that had recently been launched in DC.

From virtual command centers to augmented reality training simulations and from drone-assisted disaster response to AI health screening, leaders in DC know that the next-generation of advanced wireless networking will empower first responders, health professionals, and community organizations to deliver vital services more quickly, securely, and equitably.

To host the competition, US Ignite, Verizon, and OCTO created a two-phased reverse pitch competition in which competitors submit proposed proofs-of-concept and build prototypes of proposed solutions for a chance to receive awards including funding and an option to enter a cohort of Verizon innovators in Fall 2019.

Three teams moved to a semi-final round and received $4,440 to work with engineer mentors from Verizon and subject matter experts from the DC Department of Transportation, DC Police Department, DC Fire and EMS, and DC Health and presented their final applications and prototypes at WeDC - The Futures Forum and received cash prizes.

- **1st Place ($10,000)** – Safe Lane - A smart city application that leverages publicly available traffic camera video feeds to provide real-time analytics to identify bike lane obstructions and alert authorities.

- **2nd Place ($7,000)** – Self Action for Everyone (S.A.F.E.) smart emergency card - An IoT card that fits in a purse or wallet and allows the owner to trigger emergency care with a single button press. The S.A.F.E. card empowers citizens and filters emergency department traffic with a simple action to request an ambulance, notify emergency contacts with real-time updates, and request care guidance recommendations.

- **3rd Place ($3,000)** – Public Safety Sensor Fusion - A real-time situational awareness tool that enables the incident command to quickly assess emergency scenes and assign resources to critical locations providing crucial linkage for all first responders.