

Urging New York State To Change The Way The 911 Wireless Surcharge Is Allocated

Legislator Ronk and Co-Sponsors: The Law Enforcement and Public Safety Committee (Chairman Hayes and Legislators Belfiglio, Ronk, Sweeney, Briggs, Hochberg and Rodriguez) offer the following:

WHEREAS, since 1999 the Federal Government allows states and local Governments to levy a surcharge on Wireless bills to support emergency communications, and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the law was amended to include a provision requiring States to report to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) the amount of money raised by the surcharge and how said money was spent, and

WHEREAS, New York State responded to said questionnaire stating that \$23,300,000.00 was collected and \$10,000,000.00 was distributed to the Counties to aid Emergency Communications efforts, and

WHEREAS, the original allocation of \$10,000,000.00 was further cut to \$9,800,000.00, and

WHEREAS, the New York State 911 Coordinators Association estimates from the New York State Department of Taxation from 2010 that \$230,000,000.00 was collected from the Surcharge and only \$10,000,000.00 was allocated to the local Emergency Communications Departments, and

WHEREAS, a majority of the surcharge (\$96,076,800.00) is allocated to the New York State General Fund, and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County the Legislature believes that more funding should be allocated to the counties to further the emergency communications and emergency services in Ulster County and beyond, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature urges the New York State Assembly, Senate And Governor to alter the allocation of the 911 Wireless Surcharge in order to aid emergency services in Ulster County, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor David Paterson, Senate Majority Leader Pedro Espada Jr., Senate Minority Leader Dean G. Skelos, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari, Assembly Minority Leader Brian M. Kolb, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin A. Cahill, Clifford W. Crouch, Peter Lopez and Frank K. Skartados and the New York State Association of Counties,

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and move its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 32 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislator Shapiro)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

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STATE OF NEW YORK
ss:
COUNTY OF ULSTER

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Ulster have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 16th day of November, 2010, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the County of Ulster this 18th Day of November in the year Two Thousand and Ten.

/s/ Karen L. Binder
Karen L. Binder, Clerk
Ulster County Legislature