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2006-12

RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE MEMBERS OF THE MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT 9-1-1 MICHIGAN BY ACTING IN A TIMELY AND COLLABORATIVE MANNER TO ACTIVELY PURSUE 9-1-1 FUNDING MECHANISMS THAT ARE RELIABLE AND EQUITABLE ACROSS TECHNOLOGY LINES

WHEREAS, The Clinton County 9-1-1 Central Dispatch Director and all Public Safety Officials are hereby requesting the Clinton County Board of Commissioners to encourage members of the Michigan Legislature to support 9-1-1 in Michigan to act in a timely and collaborative manner to actively pursue 9-1-1 funding mechanisms that are reliable and equitable across technology lines; and

WHEREAS, 9-1-1 is recognized by citizens nationwide as the number to call for emergency assistance, from police, fire, and emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan 9-1-1 Service is enabled and governed by P.A. 32 of 1986 and its subsequent amendments (the Emergency Telephone Service Enabling Act); and

WHEREAS, the Emergency Telephone Service Enabling Act provides funding in the form of surcharges from both landline and wireless, that supports the network backbone and provides a capital and operational funding mechanism for Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs); and

WHEREAS, Clinton County 9-1-1 Central Dispatch provides 9-1-1 Services that are critical to the protection of life, safety, and property in Clinton County; and

WHEREAS, all citizens are served quickly and effectively regardless of whether their 9-1-1 calls are made from a landline or a wireless line; and

WHEREAS, during Fiscal Year 2005, 51% of all 9-1-1 calls placed in Clinton County were made on wireless phones; and

WHEREAS, the number of landlines in Clinton County has decreased by 13%, and

WHEREAS, 10% of the Clinton County 9-1-1 capital and operational funding is borne by landline phones – the wireless 9-1-1 surcharge funding received through P.A. 78 of 1999 is a means of achieving some parity for 9-1-1 operational funding; and

WHEREAS, newer methods of accessing telecommunications through other devices and methods are rapidly effective the 9-1-1 System; and

WHEREAS, the 9-1-1 System as it exists faces restrictions in fund collection because the current legislation does not address modern technology that has not previously existed; and

WHEREAS, the widespread replacement of traditional landline telephones with wireless phones, VoiceOver Internet Protocol (VOIP), and other emerging technology has caused a flattened or reduced source of funding for many 9-1-1 PSAPs and network providers, and

WHEREAS, this inconsistency is not the product of one single cause, but rather a combination of emerging technology, broader access to 9-1-1, and a funding system that is based on traditional landline technology surcharges; and

WHEREAS, this combination results in Michigan's 9-1-1 system costs being paid by certain users, while others bear little or no weight of the burden; and

WHEREAS, some combined landline technical and 9-1-1 Operational Surcharges in Michigan are in excess of \$4.40 a month, while there are pre-paid wireless calling devices and VOIP systems that are not subject to any 9-1-1 surcharges; and

WHEREAS, to meet these challenges Michigan's 9-1-1 Systems need support that can only be facilitated through legislative changes that keeps pace with developing technology; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Clinton County Board of Commissioners recommends:

The Michigan Legislature must act in a timely and collaborative manner to actively pursue 9-1-1 funding mechanisms that are reliable and equitable across technology lines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Governor Jennifer Granholm, Senator Alan Cropsey, State Representatives Richard Ball and Scott Hummel, all Michigan Counties and the State 911 Administrator's Office.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF CLINTON

I, DIANE ZUKER, Clerk of the County of Clinton do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Clinton County Board of Commissioners at the regular meeting held April 25, 2006 and is on file in the records of this office.

Diane Zuker, Clinton County Clerk