

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A STANDARDIZED MONTHLY 9-1-1 SURCHARGE
WITHIN WASHTENAW COUNTY

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 6, 2008

WHEREAS, In 1986 the Michigan Legislature passed Public Act 32, the Emergency 9-1-1 Service Enabling Act, which allows 9-1-1 services within the state; and

WHEREAS, The Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners adopted our first 9-1-1 Plan on February 1, 1989 (Resolution #89-0025) to benefit the citizens of Washtenaw County by providing a uniform and well known emergency telephone number; and

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County's Enhanced 9-1-1 Plan allows for the collection of a local surcharge of \$.80 per landline telephone to minimally support our nine primary PSAP's; and

WHEREAS, This landline surcharge generated \$1.8 Million in revenues in 2003, followed by \$1.6 Million in 2005 and \$1.5 Million in 2006, and this decline in revenues is directly attributed to the increased use of other communications services such as cell phones and Voice over Internet; and

WHEREAS, The total of the annual operating budgets for Washtenaw County's PSAP's exceeds \$6.3 Million; and

WHEREAS, The State of Michigan currently collects a surcharge of \$.29 on cellular telephones with a billing address in the State of Michigan, and partially distributes these funds to the County, generating approximately \$429,000 annually to defray cellular 9-1-1 operating expenses; and

WHEREAS, For the first half of 2007, 63.5% of all 9-1-1 calls received by Washtenaw County's Primary Public Safety Answering Points were made from cellular telephones, which demonstrates the impact that wireless communications has had on dispatch operations and the unequal application of a County 9-1-1 surcharge placed only on landline telephone bills; and

WHEREAS, Beginning on July 1, 2008, P.A.164 of 2007, the "Emergency 9-1-1 Service Enabling Act", will provide for a County-based 9-1-1 surcharge on all communications devices with access to 9-1-1 and a billing address within Washtenaw County; and

WHEREAS, The Public Safety Answering Point Committee and the Washtenaw County Emergency Telephone District Board unanimously recommends to the Board of Commissioners that the existing \$.80 surcharge should remain on landline service; and the same \$.80 should be assessed on all other devices with access to 9-1-1 beginning on July 1, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Adoption of this recommendation would enhance revenue stability between wireline surcharges and surcharges collected from other communications devices with access to 9-1-1 service, and provide fairness in surcharge collections between wireline and non-wireline users; and

WHEREAS, this matter has been reviewed by the County Administrator's Office, Corporation Counsel, Finance, Human Resources, and the Ways and Means Committee.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners establishes a monthly county-based surcharge of \$.80 on all communications devices capable of making 9-1-1 calls beginning on July 1, 2008 as permitted by Public Act 164 of 2007, which will generate an anticipated annual revenue of \$1,882,704, and the anticipated amount to be collected in calendar year 2008 specifically under this surcharge will be \$941,352.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby deems that that these funds are necessary to defray the costs of being ready to process, and of actually processing, 9-1-1 calls placed within Washtenaw County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this surcharge shall expire on February 28, 2009, unless extended by law.