



Massachusetts Office on Disability

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Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lt. Governor
David D'Arcangelo, Director

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April 28, 2015

Sara Clark
Secretary and Paralegal Specialist
Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable
1000 Washington Street, Suite 820
Boston, Massachusetts 02118-6500

RE: D.T.C. 15-2, Petition of the State 911 Department to Adjust the Enhanced 911 Surcharge

Dear Ms. Clark:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on behalf of the Massachusetts Office on Disability in support of the Petition of the State 911 Department to Adjust the Enhanced 911 Surcharge. I am the Director of the Massachusetts Office on Disability ("MOD") and also serve as a member of the State 911 Commission as well as the Massachusetts Equipment Distribution Program.

The primary mission of MOD is to ensure the full and equal participation of all people with disabilities in all aspects of life by working to advance legal rights, maximum opportunities, supportive services, accommodations and accessibility in a manner that fosters dignity and self-determination. The MOD operates to ensure that people with disabilities have the assistance they need in times of emergency. Access to emergency services is a vital need for the MOD's constituents. The MOD supports the efforts of the State 911 Department in the administration of its programs and the introduction of new technologies, particularly Next Generation 911, to continue to meet these goals.

The MOD works in partnership with the State 911 Department to address the challenges faced by the Commonwealth's residents in times of emergency. It is vital to provide all individuals who live independently to have an equal opportunity to access services and information available to the public. The MOD supports the disability access programs that are administered by the State 911 Department, in cooperation with the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf

and Hard of Hearing. The MOD urges the Department of Telecommunications and Cable to ensure that there continues to be adequate funding for these initiatives and programs.

The MOD also supports the introduction of the Next Generation 911 system as a means of providing the ability for people with disabilities to obtain the assistance they need in times of emergency. The MOD was involved in ensuring that the procurement of the new system will be fully compliant with laws that require equal access and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. In addition, the capabilities inherent to Next Generation 911 allow for additional information and data to be transmitted with a voice call, including text to 911, a critical need for the disability community. The MOD urges the Department of Telecommunications and Cable to ensure that adequate funding is available for these services.

Based on the foregoing, I respectfully request that the Department of Telecommunications and Cable approve the Petition of the State 911 Department to Adjust the Enhanced 911 Surcharge as soon as possible.

Thank you again for your consideration and please be sure to contact me directly regarding any questions or comments about this, or any other, issue related to persons with disabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. D'Arcangelo', written in a cursive style.

David D'Arcangelo
Director

CC: Joel Barrera, Gov, Frank Pozniak EPS