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Docket#: D.T.C 23-3
September 22, 2023

Mr. Karen Charles, Commissioner
Department of Telecommunications and Cable
1000 Washington Street, Suite 600
Boston, MA 02118

Re: Testimony in Opposition to Reduction of Massachusetts Enhanced 911 Surcharge to \$1.00 effective January 1, 2024

Dear Commissioner Charles:

As the Sheriff of the County of Dukes County, on the Island of Martha's Vineyard, I strongly oppose the pending reduction of the Massachusetts Enhanced 911 Surcharge to \$1.00 effective January 1, 2024. Pursuant to Chapter 223 of the Acts of 2008, such surcharges, currently collected at \$1.50 per month, are deposited in the Enhanced 911 Fund, which provides funding for annual Development Grant. Any erosion of this revenue, as currently provided by D.T.C. 18-2, would adversely affect the Development Grant funding, heavily relied upon by the Martha's Vineyard Public Safety Communication System.

With successful, competitive application for these funds, Dukes County Sheriff's Office has been able to begin replacing a failing, aged, analog public safety radio system, serving approximately 20,000 year-round and over 200,000 summer residents in an isolated geographic location, accessible only by air and water. With the Fiscal Year 2019 – 2023 grant awards totaling \$7,147,083, we have been able to bring public safety communications 50 years forward in technology and reliability; and on behalf of all agencies serving Dukes County, we are extremely grateful. However, our work is not done – more effort and fiscal resources must be expended to achieve true interoperability throughout the Commonwealth by integration into CoMIRS, as well as assist in creating more regional PSAP operations and personnel sharing that require the same technology platform.

Specifically, we expect to request Development Grant funding from Enhanced 911 Fund to complete the following projects at additional cost of \$6,200,000.00.

Priority	MVPSCS Project to be funded by Development Grant	Cost Estimate
1	7/800 MHz Antenna Infrastructure	250,000
2	700 MHz Frequency Coordination and Design	30,000.00
3	Dedicated Fiber Backhaul Ring (Site to Site)	1,200,000.00
4	Copicut Hill Dual Microwave Link (OB Tower and Peaked Hill	120,000.00
5	Phase II Trunking	1,600,000.00
6	Phase II ISSI (CoMIRS ilterop Motorola Core)	900,000.00
7	Edgartown Communications Tower	800,000.00
8	Dedicated Mobile Data Network	800,000.00
9	Mobile Command Replacement	750,000.00
Total		6,200,000.00

Any reduction from the current level of revenue will drastically impact the amount of available funds for award among applicants, such as our agency, with negative consequences for public safety communications State-wide.

For the aforementioned reasons, I strongly urge the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable not to reduce the Enhanced 911 Surcharge from \$1.50 per month. I also endorse any petition from the State 911 Department to keep the current surcharge level in effect after January 1, 2023, as may be filed with the Department of Telecommunications and Cable.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert W. Ogden, Sheriff
County of Dukes County