



OFFICE OF TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
TOWN OF NORWELL

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October 10, 2023

Ms. Shonda Green, Executive Secretary
Department of Telecommunications and Cable
1000 Washington Street, Suite 600 Boston, MA 02118

Re: DTC 23-3 Petition of the State 911 Department for Approval to Maintain the Monthly Enhanced 911 surcharge at \$1.50.

Ms. Green,

My name is Darleen Sullivan, and I am the Town Administrator of the Town of Norwell. I am writing you to support the State 911 departments petition for maintaining the monthly enhanced 911 surcharge of \$1.50. The reduction to a \$1.00 surcharge will drastically reduce the funding necessary to keep the Commonwealths Public Safety Answering Points operating at the high level they currently are.

Grant funding received from the State 911 Department has been critical in the creation and growth of our regional center, as well as many others. State 911 grants provide the ability to fund the continued training telecommunicators require, upgrades to public safety software and hardware for computer networks, as well as other critical public safety infrastructure. In some cases, these funds have provided the ability to replace critically outdated equipment. With out these updates, Telecommunicators, Police Officers and Fire Fighters would not be able to provide the high quality of emergency services the residence and visitors of Massachusetts receive today.

If the surcharge is reduced to \$1.00, the grant programs are projected to be reduced by \$56.7 million in FY 2025 and, \$70.5 million in both FY 2026 and FY 2027 from current funding levels. This would have far reaching financial implications for both local and regional 911 centers and the communities they serve. For these reasons, I strongly support DTC 23-3 Petition of the State 911 Department for Approval to Maintain the Monthly Enhanced 911 surcharge at \$1.50.

Respectfully,

Darleen Sullivan
Town Administrator
Town of Norwell