



Office of the Mayor
Laurel Lunt Prussing

400 S. Vine Street
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 384-2456
Fax (217) 384-2426
llprussing@urbanaindinois.us

March 4, 2014

To: Urbana City Council
From: Laurel Prussing
Re: Funding for 9-1-1 Systems

Dear Diane, Mike, Dennis, Bill, Carol, Eric and Charlie,

Here is a Resolution for your consideration. I have spoken with a number of mayors and sheriffs in Illinois who are in dire need of fixing the system. This proposal would allow each municipality or county system to extend the fee approved by voters to all devices capable of accessing the 9-1-1 network.

The purpose of the Resolution is to get local governments to discuss the issue and take a vote to ask their legislators to support fair and sustainable financing for an essential public safety program.

I look forward to your input.

In the meantime, I have asked METCAD to hold our contribution for next year at the same level as this year. We are already contributing about \$500,000 per year and they requested an additional \$127,000 for next year. The request for additional funding for all METCAD members is based on 10-year projections which assume no change in state law.

For the upcoming budget, I believe METCAD board members are willing to shift our additional \$127,000 to future years(using the existing financing projections). However, if we can focus on changing the outmoded funding system, all METCAD governments will no longer be stuck on the unsustainable path we have been on. We will be able to stop the huge double-digit annual increases that we have endured recently. My goal is to get a new law by the end of 2014 with a grass-roots campaign.



RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF ADEQUATE AND FAIR FUNDING FOR ILLINOIS 9-1-1 SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, 9-1-1 systems in Illinois were adopted by referendum in many Illinois cities and counties beginning in 1988, over a quarter of a century ago; and

WHEREAS, funding of 9-1-1 systems was based on monthly fees for land line telephones; and

WHEREAS, technology has changed significantly over the past quarter of a century, so that the revenues from land-line phones have been decreasing over time as other devices gain greater and greater market share; and

WHEREAS, the loss of revenue combined with increased costs over the past 26 years have placed an increasing and unsustainable burden on local governments; and

WHEREAS, we believe the fairest way to provide adequate funding would be to assess the same fee approved by voter referendum to all devices that access the 9-1-1 network; and

WHEREAS, we believe that adequate and fair funding for 9-1-1 systems is essential for public safety in Illinois,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the city (village, county) of _____ supports state legislation to permit local governments to assess the same fee already approved by voter referendum for land line telephones to be applied to all devices that access the 9-1-1 system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT we request that each of our state legislators sponsor and support such legislation.