

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

WHEREAS, 9-1-1 systems throughout Illinois desperately need fair and sustainable funding, e.g., Champaign County voters approved \$1.50 per land line in 1998, which eroded with the adoption of cell phones and was cut to 87 cents by a state law expiring July 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the \$1.50 voters approved in 1998 would be \$2.50 today, inflation-adjusted; and

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago was allowed to have a \$2.50 fee imposed on land lines and cell phones alike (without a referendum) and current legislation allows Chicago to charge \$3.90 but limits all other 9-1-1 systems to 87 cents per phone, regardless of previous voter approval; and

WHEREAS, 9-1-1 fees throughout Illinois should reflect local needs and local dispatch systems should not be forced to rely more and more on cash-strapped local governments; and

WHEREAS, a fixed dollar (or cents) amount will erode in real terms by inflation over time; and

WHEREAS, a fee based on a small percent of the total bill has the advantage of keeping up with inflation and also is less regressive than a fixed dollar amount;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Urbana City Council supports the following:

1. 9-1-1 systems be allowed to charge a small percent of each monthly phone bill, depending on the local system's financial needs, and
2. In order to determine a reasonable percent, local 9-1-1 systems need to know the total number of phones being billed and the total amount of the bills in their geographic area. We ask that the Statewide 9-1-1 Advisory Board provide all local systems with this information and then consult with the local systems to craft new legislation before the current law expires July 1, 2017.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL this _____ day of February, 2017.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR this _____ day of _____, _____

Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor