

**RESOLUTION NO. 022-23**

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COUNTY COUNCIL  
OF  
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

Resolution No. 022-23

Legislative Session Day 23-009

March 14, 2023

Introduced by Council President Vincenti at  
the request of the County Executive

10           A RESOLUTION raising the charge applied to current telephone bills rendered for  
11 switched local exchange access service, commercial mobile radio services providers (“CMRS”),  
12 or other 9-1-1 accessible service provider within Harford County from \$.75 to \$1.50 per month.

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1           WHEREAS, as of July 1, 2019, Section 1-311 of the Public Safety Article allowed for a  
2 county to impose a fee of \$.75 per month, to be applied to all current telephone bills rendered for  
3 each switched local exchange access service, CMRS, or other 9-1-1 accessible service provider  
4 within Harford County; and

5           WHEREAS, Section 1-311 of the Public Safety Article further provides that if such fee  
6 does not provide revenue necessary to cover a county's operation and maintenance costs for the 9-  
7 1-1 Emergency Communication System, the county may impose a fee sufficient to cover the  
8 maintenance and operation costs for its 9-1-1 system in the following fiscal year; and

9           WHEREAS, the County's current "additional charge" for its 9-1-1 service is \$.75 per  
10 month; and

11           WHEREAS, due to the continuing population growth, changing demographics, training  
12 requirements, certification requirements, public expectations, and increase in use of the 9-1-1  
13 Emergency Communication System, the operational and maintenance costs have significantly  
14 increased; and

15           WHEREAS, for the Fiscal Year of 2019, Harford County sustained approximately \$7.2  
16 million in operation and maintenance costs for its 9-1-1 Emergency Communications System, but  
17 only earned \$1.76 million from 9-1-1 system fees; and

18           WHEREAS, for the Fiscal Year of 2022, Harford County's operation and maintenance  
19 costs increased to approximately \$7.39 million with the 9-1-1 system fee only accumulating a  
20 revenue of \$2.78 million; and

21           WHEREAS, the budget for the Fiscal Year of 2023 was \$9.3 million dollars, with the  
22 budget projected to increase to 10.2 million in the Fiscal Year of 2024.

23           WHEREAS, 9-1-1 Emergency Communications System is the first link in the chain of the  
24 emergency response services provided by the County; and

25           WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections through COMAR  
26 12.11.03.04, provides for a 9-1-1 county system to have a sufficient number of call takers and  
27 equipment to consistently answer incoming calls averaging 10 seconds or less; and

28           WHEREAS, in 2022, 5,393 calls to 9-1-1 were not answered within the first 10 seconds;  
29 and

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1 WHEREAS out of the 5,393 calls to 9-1-1, 2,706 9-1-1 calls were not answered within 20  
2 seconds; and

3 WHEREAS, the number of employees required to achieve dispatch and response times  
4 consistent with COMAR will require additional staffing to process 9-1-1 calls; and

5 WHEREAS, it has been determined that the existing 9-1-1 charge is inadequate to provide  
6 the funds necessary to meet eligible operation and maintenance costs of the County 9-1-1 System;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, an additional \$.75 per month, for a total of \$1.50, charge must be levied to  
9 support the cost of the 9-1-1 System; and

10 WHEREAS, an additional increase will raise the County's current revenue from \$2.8  
11 million to a projected \$5.6 million; and

12 WHEREAS, fees collected are earmarked for the Department of Emergency Services for  
13 funding 9-1-1 Emergency Communications System's operating and maintenance costs and will be  
14 utilized to hire additional staff and 9-1-1 specialists to meet the County's service demands.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Harford County,  
16 Maryland, that the total monthly "additional charge" provided for by Maryland Annotated Code  
17 Section 1-311 of the Public Safety Article, in the amount of \$1.50 shall be applied to all current  
18 telephone bills rendered for each switched local exchange access service, CMRS, or other 9-1-1  
19 accessible service provider within Harford County; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the County Council of Harford County, Maryland, that  
21 the \$1.50 per month charge shall take effect on the date it becomes law with collection of the fee  
22 to begin 60 days after the effective date.

ATTEST:

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Mylia Dixon  
Council Administrator

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Patrick S. Vincenti  
President of the Council

ADOPTED:

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