A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY
LEGISLATORS RATH, MILLS, DIXON, HARDWICK, MORTON, AND LORIGO

Re: The wireless 911 surcharge

WHEREAS, the New York State wireless 911 surcharge was meant to support counties and their endeavor to update and maintain their development of next generation 911 technology, the consolidation of current 911 services, and improvements to public safety communication systems; and

WHEREAS, funds were collected in 2012 in excess of $200 million with less than $10 million being disbursed to County level 911 services, and

WHEREAS, those additional funds are now being significantly reallocated to the New York State general fund to finance spending not related to E-911 or any of the above mentioned upgrades; and

WHEREAS, the money collected by this fund is unfairly and inappropriately distributed throughout the Public Safety Answering Points within the State; and

WHEREAS, Erie County has been forced to use funds allocated for other development for the continuation of the required 911 technology updates in an effort to maintain expected levels of public safety; and

WHEREAS, this improper distribution is hampering public safety and other development efforts in Erie County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature requests the State of New York to appropriately disburse the funds collected through the public safety communications surcharge as laid out in Bill S1720-2013; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Andrew Cuomo, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Majority Leader Dean Skelos, the local delegation to the New York Legislature, and any other parties deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None