

TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH, RI
RESOLUTION #2020-

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FULLY FUNDED E-911

- WHEREAS: E-911's mission is intended to provide 24 hour effective and efficient emergency communication services in the interest of public good; and
- WHEREAS: Even with some of the best Fire, Rescue and Ambulance Corps in the State, the response times in rural areas may be 10 to 15 minutes - a response time that is a product of distance and antiquated equipment alone; and
- WHEREAS: The revenue source chosen to completely fund the State of RI Enhanced 911 is first remitted to the State of Rhode Island by the phone carriers from surcharges collected from everyone's individual phone bill; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Rhode Island has co-mingled in general revenue fees collected but not dedicated to E-911 services. E-911 services consist of staffing, training, operations, equipment and technology that help with the operation of delivering E-911 services; and
- WHEREAS: At present, our E-911 system has no GPS tracking for cell phones for voice and text messaging services, no Emergency Medical Dispatch (a process that puts a trained nurse practitioner or physician's assistant on the line to provide emergency medical instruction), is not in line with mandated municipal equipment upgrades from surcharges and does not have a full range of services needed to communicate with all Rhode Islanders who may find themselves in highly stressed emergency crises; and
- WHEREAS: At present, municipality dispatch centers use equipment that is electronically antiquated and not in keeping with modern efficiencies causing upgrades to be borne by municipal tax payers or by having the Police/Fire dispatch centers search for funds by writing grants.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Portsmouth Town Council, support fully funded E-911 statewide and municipal services.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Portsmouth Town Council, urge the Governor to convene the E-911 Commission to oversee the resolution of any inadequacies in the E-911 system.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Portsmouth Town Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to all State of Rhode Island City and Town Councils respectfully requesting that they too adopt a similar resolution in support of the Town of Portsmouth in their request to update staffing, training, operations, equipment and technology for 911 Emergency Services. This resolution and other resolutions will be sent to the Governor and other State and grassroots agencies requesting their support.

Approved by Town Council Action
January 13, 2020

Kevin Aguiar, President
Portsmouth Town Council

ATTEST: _____
Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk