



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Charlie Hales, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Steve Novick, Commissioner

May 9, 2013

Senator Jackie Winters, Co-Chair
Representative Jennifer Williamson, Co-Chair
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety
900 Court St. NE, Hearing Room 170
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 3317-A

Dear Co-Chairs Winters, Williamson, and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety:

The City of Portland requests your support for HB 3317-A, which reauthorizes the emergency communications tax through January 1, 2022 and extends the applicability of the tax to pre-paid and VoIP devices.

The City of Portland's Bureau of Emergency Communication (BOEC) provides 9-1-1 call answering and dispatch for all police, fire, and emergency medical responders in Multnomah County. This includes the cities of Fairview, Maywood Park, Troutdale, Gresham, and Wood Village. On average, BOEC answers approximately 3000 emergency calls per day and well over 1 million a year.

For over 30 years, the emergency communication tax has provided critical and steady funding to support and implement 9-1-1 services across the state. The continuation of this tax is vital to all of Oregon's 9-1-1 centers, public safety responders, residents and visitors. Without this tax, it would be nearly impossible to fund, implement, and support the necessary equipment and staff required to keep the public safe and respond to emergencies.

In Multnomah County, BOEC receives approximately \$3.78 million annually in revenue from the emergency communications tax to provide efficient and effective emergency communications services to our community. Without these resources our ability to respond to emergency calls and protect the public would be severely hampered.

Over the last several years the pre-paid wireless and VoIP market has grown steadily. Out of the 3,000 calls a day that BOEC processes, we estimate that 70 percent are made from cellular telephones. Based on national statistics, about 25 percent of those calls are made from pre-paid cell phones. From these statistics we estimate that the state 9-1-1 system loses \$6.8 million annually in critical emergency communication resources.

HB 3317-A brings both certainty and equity to the 9-1-1 system by extending the sunset on the emergency communications tax and explicitly applying it to pre-paid and VoIP devices.

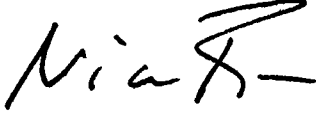
We respectfully urge your support for this important legislation.



Charlie Hales
Mayor



Amanda Fritz
Commissioner



Nick Fish
Commissioner



Dan Saltzman
Commissioner



Steve Novick
Commissioner