



CITY OF PORTLAND
BUREAU OF EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Ted Wheeler, Mayor
Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner

Bob Cozzie, Director
Post Box 1927
Portland, Oregon 97207
503.823.0911
FAX 503.823.4630
www.portlandoregon.gov/911

April 19, 2019

Representative Nancy Nathanson, Chair
House Committee on Revenue
900 Court St., NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support of HB2449A

Chair Nathanson, Members of the House Revenue Committee:

The City of Portland's Bureau of Emergency Communications (BOEC) provides emergency call taking and dispatch services to all of Multnomah County. BOEC answers approximately 900,000 calls a year and is responsible for accurate and timely emergency dispatch services to 3 police agencies, 4 fire agencies and the City's contracted ambulance service provider. In each of these responsibilities, BOEC is dependent upon technology and communications infrastructure.

Currently, BOEC receives funds from the state 9-1-1 tax which covers approximately 11% of our operating budget. The 9-1-1 tax has remained at \$0.75 cents since its inception in 1995. HB2449A seeks to double the tax to more adequately support the operations of the forty-three 9-1-1 centers within the state. Although this tax has not increased in over 20 years, operational and personnel costs have continued to incrementally increase in response to increased population and call load. Additionally, the past twenty years have brought significant technological changes with no increase in funding. At the current rate, technology cannot effectively advance, and collaboration with Oregon Emergency Management is hampered. Statewide, 9-1-1 centers do not have adequate funding to plan and implement these changes and there is little to no funding available at the State level to update the critical and lifesaving infrastructure.

The City of Portland strongly urges your support of HB2449A to increase the tax to \$1.50.

Sincerely,


Bob Cozzie, Director

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Please notify the City of Portland no less than five (5) business days prior to an event for ADA accommodations at 503-823-0911, by the City's TTY at 503-823-6868, or by the Oregon Relay Service at 1-800-735-2900.
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