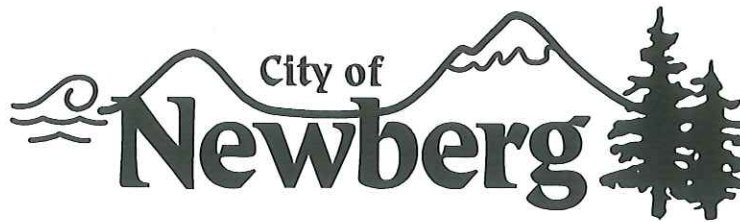


City Manager  
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Newberg, OR 97132

April 19, 2019

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

RE: Support of HB2449

Chair Nathanson and Members of the House Revenue Committee:

We are writing in support of HB2449, which would raise the current 9-1-1 tax from \$.75 cents to \$1.50.

The Newberg-Dundee 9-1-1 Communications Center is a division of the Newberg-Dundee Police Department, and operates as part of the municipality of the City of Newberg. Our 9-1-1 Center answers all 9-1-1 calls for the cities of Newberg and Dundee, and surrounding rural east Yamhill County up to adjacent county lines. We serve approximately 35,000 citizens living within our PSAP boundary, plus visitors, tourists, and students taking advantage of the many attractions the area has to offer. Newberg-Dundee 9-1-1 Communications received 9402 emergency 9-1-1 calls during 2018, approximately 780 calls per month.

The City of Newberg is dependent on 9-1-1 funding for communication technology, maintenance, and training to help equip and operate our primary PSAP (public safety answering point). At this time, 9-1-1 tax funds represents 16% of our overall 9-1-1 operating budget:

GF Communications Budget -	\$1,438,466	84%
9-1-1 Funds (including Contingency) -	\$ 269,430	16%
Total	\$1,707,896	

Providing 9-1-1 services has changed dramatically since the implementation of the current tax 24 years ago, primarily due to advancements in technology and security requirements which are major expenses. Added to these costs are the ongoing rise in personnel and operating costs. Without some relief, the City of Newberg's ability to fully support the needs of citizens and visitors within our PSAP boundary, as well as the support for our emergency fire, police and EMS responders, will be compromised.

Statewide, our citizens and visitors rely on 9-1-1, anticipating their every 9-1-1 call will be answered promptly and the appropriate responder will show up at their emergency. This tax increase of .75 cents will move Oregon towards sustainable 9-1-1 funding to meet the needs and expectations of our citizens regardless of where they are located within the State.

Nationally, Oregon has been a leader in 9-1-1 ingenuity and is often cited as a state to emulate with our training program and EMS response requirements. This, too, will be compromised unless a remedy for the funding deficit is found. We feel that the time to raise the 9-1-1 tax is now.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Rogers  
Mayor  
City of Newberg

Joe Hannan  
City Manager  
City of Newberg

Brian Casey  
Chief of Police  
Newberg-Dundee Police Department