

# Warren County Board of Supervisors

## RESOLUTION NO. 569 OF 2011

**Resolution introduced by Supervisors Thomas, Taylor, Goodspeed, Belden, Monroe, VanNess, Kenny, Merlino and Conover**

### **CALLING FOR THE ALLOCATION OF REVENUES FROM THE NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC SAFETY SURCHARGE TO COUNTIES TO SUPPORT 911 AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS**

WHEREAS, the State of New York imposes a \$1.20 surcharge on all wireless telephones, which in 2010 raised over \$200 million, and for which these funds were intended to be spent on 911 operations to help first responders to communicate and respond to emergencies, and

WHEREAS, the \$1.20 surcharge should be imposed on any communications device capable of connecting to 911, and

WHEREAS, the State of New York has historically allocated only 6 percent of these funds to counties who are responsible for the operations of 911 centers, and

WHEREAS, the 2010-2011 New York State Budget designated an additional \$20 million in grants from the cellular surcharge to fund county regional communication projects, and \$45 million in the 2011-12 Budget, however this amount is still a meager percentage of the total amount collected in this fund, and

WHEREAS, counties are in dire need of this funding, and urge the Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications to award these funds as soon as possible, and

WHEREAS, counties and other municipalities are the actual providers of 911 services to the people of New York State and incur substantial costs to upgrade and maintain communications systems, as well as keep up to date with technological changes such as Next Generation 911 (NG 911), which is estimated to take 10 years to implement at a cost of approximately \$22 billion in New York State, and

WHEREAS, counties have demonstrated their ability to work together to form regional partnerships and collaborate in the development and expansion of their public safety systems, and

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WHEREAS, New York State's practice of raiding these funds makes counties ineligible for federal funding, including \$42 million in wireless Next Generation 911 funding, and \$58 million from the New York State Department of Transportation, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors urges the State of New York to allocate the fullest amount of these funds permissible under law to counties so that 911 centers and emergency service personnel can make the necessary investments in their systems to support the emergency communications needs in their communities, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors commends the Office of Interoperable and Emergency Communications for their attentiveness to the new grant program, and further urges the swift and thoughtful dispersal of funds allocated to the counties, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors shall forward certified copies of this Resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Senator Elizabeth O'C Little, Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward, the New York State Legislature, the Commissioner of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services and all others deemed necessary and proper.