Resolution No. 320 September 11, 2007

Requesting A More Equitable Share Of The New York State Wireless 911 Surcharge

The Criminal Justice and Safety Committee (Chairman Dart and Legislators Distel, Gregorius, R.A. Parete, Zimet, Aiello and Every) offers the following

WHEREAS, the State of New York imposes a 911 surcharge of $1.20 on all wireless telephones which has generated several hundred million dollars over the past five years, and

WHEREAS, the State of New York has provided the local counties and municipalities that actually answer wireless 911 phone calls with only Twenty Million Dollars in State Fiscal Year 2003 and Ten Million Dollars per year thereafter, and

WHEREAS, counties and municipalities need a greater share of these wireless surcharge monies to provide the best wireless 911 service available to the general public, (as previously noted and requested by the Ulster County Legislature in Resolution No. 370 of November 14, 2002), and

WHEREAS, counties and municipalities that provide wireless 911 service to the general public will have to spend a considerable amount of time and money to maintain their 911 systems in a manner that provides the public with a fast, reliable and efficient system for delivering emergency police, fire and medical assistance to those in need.

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature urges Governor Eliot Spitzer and the New York State Legislature to increase funding of County and local 911 systems, and to more equitably share the wireless surcharge monies with counties that receive wireless 911 calls and dispatch needed emergency help,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to Governor Eliot Spitzer, New York State Comptroller’s Office, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Senate Minority Leader Malcolm Smith, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari, Assembly Minority Leader James N. Tedisco, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin A. Cahill, Clifford W. Crouch, Peter Lopez and Thomas Kirwan, and the New York State Association of Counties,
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and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:   30         NOES:    0
(Absent: Legislators Every, Felicello and Kraft)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

0901