



KNOXVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
THE CITY OF KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE



BILL HASLAM, MAYOR

CHIEF STERLING P. OWEN

November 10, 2009

Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR)
226 Capitol Blvd. Bldg, Suite 508
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Commission Members:

I serve on the Board of Directors for the Knox County Emergency Communications District (KCECD) which serves in excess of 400,000 citizens in Knoxville, Knox County and the surrounding region. Knoxville is the largest city in this area and bears the privilege and responsibility of being the competent leader in the communications area and a strong partner to our neighbors. Last year, the KCECD received almost 700,000 Calls For Service.

It is common knowledge that cellular phones are far more popular now than in years past and traditional revenue from "hard line" telephones continues to decline. The KCECD has seen a decrease in revenue from land line tariffs of 10% in the last year. At the same time, we have been forced by improved technology to replace old systems that are no longer serviceable or efficient. It is estimated the replacement of our existing radio and Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems will cost over \$19,000,000.

We urge the acceptance of the September 30, 2009 *United States Department of Transportation Next Generation 911 System Initiative Report* which recommends a fixed mount surcharge on all calling devices like those proposed in House Bill 0204.

I strongly urge the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations to endorse the intent of House Bill 0204 which will allow our citizens to continue to receive the emergency response they so richly deserve.

Respectfully,

/ Sterling P. Owen, IV, Chief
Knoxville Police Department

c: Director Bob Coker, Knoxville-Knox County Emergency Communications District
Knox County Legislative Delegation