

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL  
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

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**Meeting Date:** 11/18/2003**Reference No.:** CR-64-2003**Proposer:** County Executive**Draft No.:** 2**Sponsors:** Shapiro, Knotts

**Item Title:** A Resolution approving an increase in the additional charge for switched local exchange access service, commercial mobile radio service and other 911 accessible service within the County

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**Drafter:** Christopher J. Ketchen  
OMB**Resource** Thomas M. Himler  
**Personnel:** OMB

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**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:****Date Presented:** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_**Executive Action:** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_**Committee Referral:** 10/7/2003 PSFM**Effective Date:** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_**Committee Action:** 10/22/2003 FAV(A)**Date Introduced:** 10/7/2003**Public Hearing:** 11/18/2003 10:00 A.M.**Council Action:** 11/18/2003 ADOPTED**Council Votes:** PS:A, MB:A, SHD:A, TD:A, CE:A, DCH:A, TH:A, TK:A, DP:A**Pass/Fail:** P**Remarks:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**PUBLIC SAFETY & FISCAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT** Date: 10/22/03

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended, 5-0, (In favor: Councilmembers Exum, Bland, Hendershot, Knotts and Peters.)

This resolution will increase the County's charge from \$0.50 to \$0.75 per month per bill for switched local exchange access service, commercial mobile radio service and other 911 accessible service within Prince George's County. During the 2003 session of the Maryland General Assembly, enabling legislation was passed which will allow the County to increase this charge effective October 1, 2003.

This legislation will provide the County with additional revenue necessary for implementing a "Phase II Wireless Enhance 911" system. The system will allow County emergency personnel to

locate distressed citizens who call 911 from wireless phones by integrating GIS technology into our emergency response. This enhancement will enable the County to greatly improve the nature of public safety in the community. These upgrades have been mandated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The revenue received as a result of this increased cost will be used for the implementation, maintenance and future upgrades of a new enhanced system. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) stated that the cost for the two-phase project will be approximately \$2 million dollars.

Each 911 service carrier that provides service in Prince George's County is required to add the full amount of the additional charge to all current bills for commercial mobile radio service and other 911 accessible service within 60 days after this resolution is adopted.

The Legislative Officer stated that State law, Section 1-311 of the Public Safety Article, provides that the local additional fee may be increased after a public hearing. He recommended that a clause be added which recites that the required hearing was held on an appropriate date. Also, some factual basis supporting the increase needs to be provided at least by the time of the public hearing.

The resolution was amended in committee by adding the clause stating the date the required public hearing was held.

The fiscal impact on the County will be positive as a result of the increased fee in CR-64-2003. The increased fee will generate an additional \$700,000 in revenue in FY2004 and \$2.1 million in FY2005. The estimated difference between the fiscal years is due to the partial year implementation in FY2004.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT**

**(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)**

During the 2003 Session of the Maryland General Assembly, the State legislature passed legislation enabling the County to increase the County's charge from fifty cents (\$0.50) to seventy-five cents (\$0.75) per month per bill. The 911 charge applies to all "land lines" receiving switched local exchange access service, commercial mobile radio service, and other 911 accessible service within the County. Increasing this charge by twenty-five cents (\$0.25) is expected to generate an additional \$1 million in FY2004, and \$2 million annually thereafter. This revenue is to be dedicated to the enhancement and maintenance of the County's 911 system, in accordance with State law.

## **CODE INDEX TOPICS:**