

911 TELEPHONE LINE SURCHARGE INCREASE

Potential Impacts to a Business

During the 2017 State of Nevada Legislative session, Senate Bill 176 (NV SB 176) was passed, amending Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 289.830 to require uniformed peace officers who routinely interact with the public to wear portable event recording devices (body-worn cameras) while on duty. The City of Reno, the City of Sparks, and Washoe County have subsequently initiated portable event recording device programs within each of their respective law enforcement organizations. The portable event recording device programs must be in place and operational no later than July 1, 2018. With NV SB 176, the 2017 Legislature also amended NRS 244A.7643 to allow for the use of 911 telephone line surcharge revenues for the purpose of paying the costs associated with the acquisition and maintenance of portable event recording devices and vehicular event recording devices.

Currently, the 911 telephone line surcharge is \$0.25 per month for each customer access line to the local exchange of a telecommunications provider, \$0.25 per month for each telephone number assigned to a customer of mobile telephone service (including VoIP service), and \$2.50 per month for each customer trunk line to the local exchange of a telecommunications provider. Revenue from the current 911 surcharge is placed into a fund ("911 Fund") administered by Washoe County. Upon recommendation by Washoe County's 911 Emergency Response Advisory Committee ("ERAC"), the 911 surcharge fund is currently used to cover costs associated with 911 telecommunications services, equipment, software, personnel, and training necessary for the operations and maintenance of the enhanced 911 telephone system.

As authorized by NRS 244A.7643, as amended by NV SB 176 (2017), the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners may consider increasing the 911 surcharge up to \$1.00 per month for each customer access line to the local exchange of a telecommunications provider, up to \$1.00 per month for each telephone number assigned to a customer of mobile telephone service (including VoIP service), and up to \$10.00 per month for each customer trunk line to the local exchange of a telecommunications provider. The surcharge increase would help recover one-time and on-going costs associated with implementing portable event recording device programs at each of the regional law enforcement agencies. This Business Impact Statement is being initiated, as required by NRS 237.030 through 237.150, to assess the potential impact to business operations or the formation of new businesses if the 911 surcharge is increased.

Proposed 911 Surcharge Increase

Any increase of the 911 surcharge would be authorized by and follow the guidelines specified in NRS 244A.7643, as amended by NV SB 176 (2017). If increased, the surcharge would be set to an amount within the following range:

1. \$0.25 up to \$1.00 per month for each access line to the local exchange of a telecommunications provider.
2. \$0.25 up to \$1.00 per month for each telephone number assigned to a customer of mobile telephone service (including VoIP service).
3. \$2.50 up to \$10.00 per month for each trunk line to the local exchange of a telecommunications provider.

This is potentially an increase of up to \$0.75 per access (land) and mobile line and up to \$7.50 for trunk lines.

Revenue collected as a result of the increase is only to be used for enhancements to the 911 emergency telephone system or for portable event recording device (body-worn and vehicle-mounted cameras) programs at the City of Reno Police Department, the City of Sparks Police Department, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office and the City of Reno and City of Sparks Municipal Courts' Marshals.

Per NRS 244A.7645, 911 surcharge revenue used to enhance the telephone system for reporting an emergency may only be used for:

- Paying recurring and nonrecurring charges for telecommunication services necessary for the operation of the enhanced telephone system;
- Paying costs for personnel and training associated with the routine maintenance and updating of the database for the system;
- Purchasing, leasing or renting the equipment and software necessary to operate the enhanced telephone system, including, without limitation, equipment and software that identify the number or location from which a call is made; and
- Paying costs associated with any maintenance, upgrade and replacement of equipment and software necessary for the operation of the enhanced telephone system.

With respect to purchasing and maintaining portable event recording devices and vehicular event recording devices, 911 surcharge revenue may only be used for:

- Paying costs associated with the acquisition, maintenance, storage of data, upgrade and replacement of equipment and software necessary for the operation of portable event recording devices and vehicular event recording devices or systems that consist of both portable event recording devices and vehicular event recording devices.

If revenue from the 911 telephone line surcharge exceeds the costs associated with supporting the enhanced 911 telecommunications system and the portable event recording device programs,, the 911 Fund may, as authorized by NRS 244A.7645, as amended by NV SB 176 (2017), accrue to a balance of \$5,000,000. If the fund exceeds \$5,000,000 at the end of any fiscal year the board of county commissioners shall reduce the amount of the surcharge imposed during the next fiscal year by the amount necessary to ensure that the balance in the fund at the end of the next fiscal year does not exceed \$5,000,000.

Business Impact Reporting

In accordance with Nevada law, Washoe County must notify business owners and trade association members likely to be impacted by an increase of the 911 telephone line surcharge. You are encouraged to provide any comments, arguments or data to Washoe County if you believe an increase in the 911 telephone line surcharge will:

- Impose a direct and significant economic burden upon your business; or,
- Directly restrict the formation, operation, or expansion of your business.

Any comments, arguments or data should focus on the potential impacts of the proposed 911 telephone line surcharge increase on a business. This information will be included within the business impact statement to be considered by the elected officials prior to any action to approve a 911 surcharge increase.

Written comments, arguments or data must be submitted no later than fifteen (15) working days after the first publication of this notice, or by Friday December 15th, 2017, to:

Website: https://www.washoecounty.us/technology/911_surcharge.php

Postal mail (post-marked on or before December 15th, 2017): Washoe County Department of Technology Services, Attn: 911 Surcharge, P.O. Box 11130, Reno, NV 89520-0027

E-mail: Surcharge911@washoecounty.us

Fax: (775)-328-3640 – Cover page, Attn 911 Surcharge

Workshops:

Washoe County will host two public workshops to discuss the potential impacts of the proposed surcharge increase on businesses in the region. You are invited to attend these workshops to ask questions, and to provide comments, arguments or data on the potential impacts of the proposed 911 surcharge increase.

Date: Monday, December 11th, 2017 **Time:** Noon – 1:00 p.m., and 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Location: Central Conference Room, Washoe County Administrative Complex, Building C, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada 89512.