

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE [CITY COUNCIL / COMMISSIONERS COURT] OF [CITY / COUNTY NAME], TEXAS, SUPPORTING A STATEWIDE WIRELESS 9-1-1 SERVICE FEE ADJUSTMENT AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING MODEL FOR NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1

WHEREAS, the North Central Texas region is projected to grow from approximately 8.7 million residents today to more than 12 million by 2050, placing increasing demands on emergency response systems and the public safety infrastructure that supports local communities; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of North Central Texas to continue to have reliable and dependable access to emergency police, fire, and medical services, and such access depends on maintaining a modern, resilient, and secure 9-1-1 system; and,

WHEREAS, as North Central Texas continues to grow and technology evolves, sustaining a fully funded Next Generation 9-1-1 network is essential to protecting lives, supporting first responders, and safeguarding the long-term well-being of communities throughout the region; and,

WHEREAS, the North Central Texas Emergency Communications District (NCT9-1-1) operates pursuant to Texas Health & Safety Code Chapter 772 to provide regional 9-1-1 emergency communications services for residents and visitors within its service area; and,

WHEREAS, the statewide wireless 9-1-1 service fee has remained at \$0.50 per device per month since its' inception 1997, nearly thirty years without adjustment, resulting in an outdated and increasingly unsustainable funding model; and,

WHEREAS, Emergency Communication Districts do not have authority to levy property taxes and rely solely on state-authorized service fees to fund essential emergency communications infrastructure, network operations, cybersecurity protections, and system modernization; and,

WHEREAS, the Texas Legislature in 2021 mandated implementation of Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) statewide by September 2025, requiring the transition from legacy analog systems to secure, IP-based networks capable of routing voice, text, data, and other multimedia communications; and,

WHEREAS, NCT9-1-1 successfully met the mandated deployment requirements for NG911 at the time such mandate was issued; however, a long-term, sustainable funding mechanism to support its ongoing operation, cybersecurity requirements, redundancy, and lifecycle replacement costs has not yet been established; and,

WHEREAS, underfunding the 9-1-1 system jeopardizes public safety by threatening the security, reliability, resiliency, and timeliness of emergency response services for all residents and visitors in the NCT9-1-1 service area; and,

WHEREAS, most states have increased their 9-1-1 fees to reflect modern operational realities, with only a small minority of states maintaining fees at \$0.50 per month or less, and many charging significantly higher amounts; and,

WHEREAS, a 2024 statewide survey found significant statewide support for increasing the wireless 9-1-1 fee, demonstrating broad public recognition of the importance of sustaining emergency communications services; and,

WHEREAS, ensuring that Texas 9-1-1 systems remain reliable, secure, modern, and capable of handling voice, text, and multimedia emergency communications is essential to protecting lives and property in all communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the [City Council / Commissioners Court] of [City / County Name], Texas:

Section 1. Expresses its support for legislative action to adjust the statewide wireless 9-1-1 service fee to a level that reflects the true cost of providing resilient, Next Generation 9-1-1 services and provides an ongoing automatic methodology for adjustment based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Section 2. Supports establishment of a sustainable, long-term funding model to ensure continued operation, cybersecurity protection, redundancy, and modernization of Texas 9-1-1 systems.

Section 3. Directs that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the North Central Texas Emergency Communications District, the Governor of Texas, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, and members of the Texas Legislature representing this jurisdiction.