



# CITY OF **MENTOR**

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## **Ohio Senate Financial Institutions and Technology Committee**

SB 50

Kenneth J. Filipiak, City of Mentor, Ohio

President of the Ohio Association of Public Safety Directors

March 22, 2023

### **Chairman Wilson, Ranking Minority Member Smith, and members of the committee:**

I am Kenneth J. Filipiak, the City Manager for the City of Mentor, in Lake County. Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee today, and provide you with proponent testimony for Senate Bill 50.

To help familiarize you with our community, the City of Mentor is located on the shores of Lake Erie, approximately 25-miles northeast of Cleveland. Over 47,000 residents call Mentor home, as well as over 300 manufacturers and 300 retailers. In fact, the City of Mentor ranks sixth in both manufacturing and in retail in the State of Ohio while ranking 20<sup>th</sup> in population.

Mentor homes and businesses are spread across approximately 27.8 square miles and connected with 500-lane miles of roadway. These constituents are protected by Mentor Police & Fire Rescue forces, which are supported through the efforts of Mentor Dispatch.

I am here today to provide proponent testimony on Senate Bill 50. The bill at present will provide the funding to enhance the current 9-1-1 to the Next Generation 9-1-1, and most importantly will allow the transfer of 9-1-1 calls to the appropriate jurisdiction without losing critical information. The legislation will accomplish this through the adjustment of the surcharge from 25 cents to 70 cents and apply the charge to all devices capable of calling 9-1-1.

### **Next generation 9-1-1 Improvements**

The modernization of 9-1-1 is a requirement for local jurisdictions to ensure quality and proper service delivery to our constituents. The next generation of 9-1-1 will allow voice and integrated text-to-9-1-1, from traditional and new devices, and provide dispatchers with the best location information available. The system will support the transfer of 9-1-1 from a Public Safety Answering Point to another jurisdiction without losing location information or supplemental data. The upgrade will also provide 99.9999% reliability through proactive monitoring, maintenance and security. The system will also be afforded unlimited options for call routing should a dispatch center be unavailable for any reason and provide the agencies with a disaster recovery backup less reliant on pre-negotiated mutual aid agreements.

## **Funding**

The surcharge as currently constructed, does not extend to all devices capable of calling 9-1-1. SB 50 will broaden the applicability to all devices capable of initiating a call for service on 9-1-1.

Many of these technological advances were unforeseen when the original surcharge was established. The requested 70 cent surcharge rate will fully fund ALL jurisdictions in Ohio's migration to Next Generation 9-1-1. The statewide system will provide a universal 9-1-1, much like MARCS did in 2000, for emergency service radios.

## **Summary**

The changes to the surcharge have been necessary for several years. The State of Ohio has the opportunity to create a Next Generation 9-1-1 system to aid local jurisdictions in the migration to a better technology to serve visitors, residents, and businesses. The opportunity to fund the system and enhancing the service will provide a resource that is currently not available in most jurisdictions. The Ohio Municipal League, the Ohio City/County Management Association and Ohio Association of Public Safety Directors are respectfully requesting the passage of this legislation in its current form.

Thank you for your time this morning, I would be happy to address any questions from the committee.