

Nebraska Public Service Commission  
1200 N street  
300 The Atrium  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4927

May 30, 2014

RE: 911-060/PI-191

Text to 911 services  
Funding E911

This letter address the funding mechanism for the pending Text to 911 services being offered by wireless service providers in Nebraska.

Your letter of May 6, 2014 is asking for comments on the various types of text to 911 solutions available to PSAPs; the cost of implementing and providing a text to 911 solutions for PSAPs; whether such additional funding should be made available to all PSAPs without condition; and any other information helpful to the Commission in making a determination.

The various types of text messages continue to be discussed and diagrammed. With the help of NENA, APCO and other similar organizations standards are being agreed on for the text delivery platform to any PSAP.

The cost remains aloof. With the newness of the texting platform to date many of the functions, appliances, licenses, filters are still a little out of focus. PSAPs still do not clearly know what is needed, how many, where to install and how to financially sustain the new equipment.

Additional funding should be made available during these rudimentary stages of this project. The number of 911 calls placed by people using wireless phones and other wireless devices has significantly increased in recent years. It is estimated that well over half of all 911 calls are placed from wireless phones, and that percentage is growing.

For many Nebraskans, the ability to call 911 for help in an emergency is one of the main reasons they own a wireless phone. Other wireless 911 calls come from good hearted people who are reporting medical emergencies, car crashes, crimes or other life threatening incidents. The prompt delivery of wireless 911 calls to public safety organizations remains mission critical for the public by promoting safety of life and property.

It is our request of the Commission to release additional funds beyond the annual allocation to PSAPs for the implementation and provision of text to 911 services. Conditions for this additional funding is an area of great discussion because this segment

of 911 service new and unfamiliar. We do not know what all will be needed in Nebraska and in specific counties across the state.

Is there money available? Yes

Do the PSAPs need a blank check? Certainly not.

Do the PSAPs need financial assistance with text to 911? Absolutely.

Costs associated with equipment, the installation of the equipment, software, training and maintenance of the equipment are all rock-solid points to consider with the additional funding. After a time has passed, three years for example, the additional funding that was released for the initial build could simply then be rolled into the exiting E911 SAM for PSAPs to integrate into their existing PSC audits.

Sincerely,

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