



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

186827

Military Department
Office of Emergency Management
PO Box 14370
Salem, OR 97309-5062
Phone: (503) 378-2911
Fax: (503) 373-7833
TTY: (503) 373-7857

Sept. 17, 2014

Mayor Charlie Hales
Commissioner Nick Fish
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Commissioner Steve Novick
Commissioner Dan Saltzman

My name is Mark Tennyson, with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM). In my position as Manager of the Technology & Response Section, I am also the Manager of the State of Oregon, 9-1-1 Program. I apologize that I am unable to speak in front of the Council today but ask that this letter be submitted into the record.

I am providing information as to the requested change to the City Code which would exempt gross income derived from providing 9-1-1 service from being considered as applicable to the Portland Utility License Fee.

Oregon law requires that the State of Oregon have border to border Enhanced 9-1-1 service. Enhanced 9-1-1 requires that when a 9-1-1 call is placed anywhere in the state, the phone number and location of that 9-1-1 call must be provided to a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and the call must be routed to the PSAP that serves the location from where the call is made.

There are many steps required to provide this statewide service and as such, the Oregon Office of Emergency Management is responsible for paying all billings required to provide the "backbone" of 9-1-1 service by the use of the Emergency Communications Tax.

Part of the process to provide Enhanced 9-1-1 requires the use of Selective Routers. Selective Routers are a piece of equipment that makes the proper routing of 9-1-1 calls and the retrieval of the phone number and location of a 9-1-1 call possible. The telecommunications utility CenturyLink, provides Selective Routers that make this possible and have Selective Routers located in the City of Portland. OEM receives monthly billings from CenturyLink that provides this service.

In June of 2013 CenturyLink began applying the Utility License Fee as was required by the City Code at the time. Since the Selective Routers are in the city limits, and generate income for CenturyLink, the fee was placed on 9-1-1 billings to OEM.

OEM is not questioning the City having such a fee, nor are we questioning the requirement for CenturyLink to place it on the billing. However, because of how the Enhanced 9-1-1 process works, OEM believes that the placing of the Fee on billings for 9-1-1 was an unintended consequence of the code as written.

www.twitter.com/OregonOEM

*Physical Location: 3225 State Street, Room 115, Salem, Oregon
9-1-1 SAVES...*



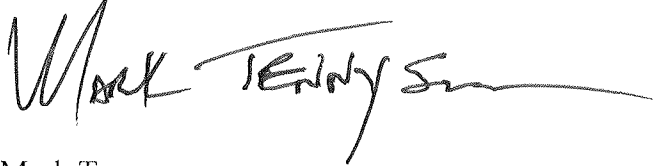
OEM then began discussion with the City's Revenue Bureau of how the fee was being applied to 9-1-1. The fee was being applied on equipment inside the City, but this equipment is also required in order to provide 9-1-1 service *outside* of the city limits. This is because the CenturyLink Selective Routers in Portland provide Enhanced 9-1-1 call routing for 9-1-1 calls originating in Clackamas County, Washington County, Columbia County, Marion County, and Polk County and these 9-1-1 calls are then routed to the proper PSAP serving those counties.

OEM began working with the City to bring about an exemption from the Fee for that income which is gained by providing the services or equipment that makes E9-1-1 service possible. Such a consensus has been reached in the rewording of the Code now before you and we seek your approval of the changes to the Code and its immediate implementation.

I would also like to pass along my thanks to the personnel in your Revenue Bureau for their assistance in working with members of my staff in this endeavor.

Thank you and I ask you to call on me at any time if I may be of assistance with any questions as to 9-1-1, either in the City of Portland or the State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Tennyson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Mark Tennyson
Section Manager
Technology & Response Services
State 9-1-1 Program Manager
Oregon Office of Emergency Management
PH: 503-378-2911 Ext: 22265
mark.tennyson@state.or.us