



Florida 9-1-1 Coordinators Association, Inc.  
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Daytona Beach, FL 32124

January 13, 2021

The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
Governor of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

**Re: Next Generation 911 (NG-911) and the Florida 911 Fee Revenue**

Dear Governor DeSantis,

The 911 fee in the State of Florida was enacted in 1985 at an amount of \$0.50 per month per device accessing 911 services. In January of 2015 the amount was reduced to \$0.40, a 20% reduction.

In 1985 there were no cellular telephones; no digital mapping; no text-to-911; no routers, switches, gateways, or servers; no software; no virus protection; no denial of service attacks; the 911 answering equipment was mechanical, not software driven.

The fee is intended to fund items such as 911 Operator salaries; 911 Operator training and certifications; 911 telephone system maintenance; 911 networks; 911 mapping; 911 call recording; hearing impaired equipment; backup power systems; time synchronization equipment; location repositories; 911 Center and equipment environmental integrity.

Today, across the U.S., 911 centers are transitioning to NG-911 services with the implementation of IP call routing and regional mapping. With a fee of \$0.40 in Florida, there is limited possibility of establishing NG-911 services in the state. The ability to provide the initial funding to establish new services and implement new products in a 911 Center is often not the fiscal challenge. The recurring and follow-on expenses for maintenance, services, and system supervision is the fiscal challenge.

Currently Florida has one of the lowest 911 fees when compared to other southern states. Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, and Mississippi have rates between \$1.00 and \$1.75.