

**Kent County 911 Surcharge
FACT Sheet**

- Current State law allows the State to charge a surcharge of \$0.29 on cell phones until June 30, 2008.
 - Of that amount, the State keeps a portion for various things and a portion is redistributed to the City of Grand Rapids and the Michigan State Police for wireless 911 calls. All wireless 911 calls in Kent County are routed to one of these two Public Safety Answering Points.
 - This fee of \$0.29 will drop to \$0.19 on July 1, 2008, as a result of the expansion of this fee to cover both landline, wireless, and other communication services capable of accessing 911, rather than just wireless communication devices.
- Current State law also allows telephone companies to charge a surcharge of \$0.15 fee on landlines to reimburse them for the cost of the infrastructure to process a 911 call/network costs. That fee will continue at the same rate after July 1, 2008. **No local government receives these funds.**
- On February 28, 2008, the County Board of Commissioners approved a request by the Kent County Dispatch Authority for the County Board to assess a \$0.45 surcharge on all landline, wireless, or other communication services that are capable of accessing 911 services, as enabled by Public Act 164 of 2007. This includes cell phones, landlines, and VOIP.
- The Kent County Dispatch Authority has 13 members, appointed by their respective governing bodies or the authority itself, and includes: Wyoming City Manager Curtis Holt, Kent County Commissioner Arthur Tanis, Kent County Sheriff Larry Stelma, Grandville City Commissioner Randy Gelderloos, Walker City Commissioner Chuck Deschaine, Lowell Police Chief Jim Valentine, Rockford City Manager Michael Young, Michigan State Police Lt. Steve Harper, Grand Rapids Police Chief Kevin Belk, Grand Rapids Assistant City Manager Greg Sundstrom, Cannon Township Supervisor Peter MacGregor, Plainfield Township Fire Chief David Peterson, Kent EMS Executive Director Senez Rodriguez.
- The revenue from the surcharge will be utilized by the Kent County Dispatch Authority to implement the Authority's Strategic Plan which includes: 1) consolidating the call taking function; 2) implementing technology to improve time stamping of calls for proper recording and accuracy; 3) procuring a new Computer Aided Dispatch system to enable simultaneous dispatch; 4) performing a radio communications study, and; 5) establishing agreements and performing the organizational assessments necessary to consolidate the call taking function.
- Pursuant to Public Act 164 of 2007, services users with ten lines or more will be assessed the surcharge on the first ten lines and every tenth line/communication service thereafter.
- In Kent County, it is estimated that the \$0.45 will generate \$3.6 million annually. However, right now, the law allowing the County to collect the surcharge expires on February 28, 2009. From July 1, 2008 to February 28, 2009, the surcharge is estimated to generate \$2.4 million. It is expected the State will address the expiration issue prior to February 28, 2009.

SUMMARY OF STATE AND LOCAL 911 SURCHARGES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2008

	BEFORE July 1, 2008	Effective July 1, 2008
State Fee on Landlines	\$0.00	\$0.19
State Fee on Wireless Communication Devices/Services	\$0.29	
County Fee on Landlines	\$0.00	\$0.45
County Fee on Wireless Communications Devices/Services	Not enabled	
Fee assessed by service providers to support 911 infrastructure/network costs	\$0.15	\$0.15