

Mr. Leo E. Longworth
President
Florida League of Cities
P.O. Box 1757
Tallahassee, FL 32302

Dear President Longworth:

On Behalf of the North Port City Commission, I am writing you regarding Florida 911/E911 fees that are collected pursuant to Florida State Statute 365.173. This letter shall also serve as support by the entire City Commission for the City of North Port related to lobbying for changes in the current statute.

With recent additions to the E911 statute, new requirements are being placed upon agencies that provide public safety communication services (i.e. dispatch). The new requirements were added to FSS 365.173 but no funding was attached to the new requirements. We believe the Florida Legislature made the changes and incorporated the said changes into FSS 365.173 since the statute regulates E911 fees. A closer review of the E911 funding program as well as checking with our own Police Department and several others in neighboring counties, uncovered that many municipalities in the State of Florida do not receive any of the revenue generated from the 911/E911 fees.

Under the current structure of Florida State Statute 365.183, all money received as part of the E911/911 program are disseminated to all 67 counties within the state. No mechanism nor formula exists in the statute that mandates any of the money be shared with municipalities that provide 911 services and/or emergency communications services. These services would include; law enforcement dispatch, fire service dispatch, and medical dispatch. Municipalities are at the leisure of the county government to determine if any revenue will be shared. This has led to a system in which some city public safety department receive some funding while other cities do not. No formula or standards are applied to ensure that each local jurisdiction that provides some or all these services receives a fair amount of funding. The residents of our city as is the case in every city contribute to these funds based upon landline telephones (including fax & VOIP) as well as cellular telephones.

The City of North Port Commission supports efforts by the Florida League of Cities to address this issue and to advocate changes on the legislative level. The North Port City Commission is interested in engaging in meaningful dialogue that helps lead to a change in the 911/E911 funding that will give back to cities that provide these mentioned services funding that our residents are paying into the system.