

VI. TELECOMMUNICATIONS RESOLUTIONS

TC-1 Resolution Concerning the Advancement of 9-1-1 Services

WHEREAS, The public has high expectations for effective and accessible 9-1-1 service regardless of the technology being used; *and*

WHEREAS, The public expects 9-1-1 calls, along with the caller's phone number and location information, to be delivered to the geographically appropriate public safety answering point; *and*

WHEREAS, Americans are increasingly communicating utilizing modern technologies such as wireless and IP-based communications devices, and the current 9-1-1 system was not designed to handle all calls or data from these devices; *and*

WHEREAS, The nation's E9-1-1 system is beginning to migrate to an IP-based "next generation" 9-1-1 system that is accessible anytime, anywhere, using any technology; *and*

WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) formed the Joint Federal/State VoIP Enhanced 911 Enforcement Task Force to facilitate compliance with and enforcement of the FCC's VoIP 911 rules; *and*

WHEREAS, The NARUC Legislative E911 Task Force was created to evaluate legislative initiatives on the State and federal levels; *and*

WHEREAS, While over 90% of U.S. counties provide enhanced 9-1-1 (E9-1-1) service, according to the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) there are still approximately 174 counties that provide only basic 9-1-1 service and another approximately 109 counties that provide service below the level of basic 9-1-1; *and*

WHEREAS, The FCC, in a Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking adopted June 12, 1996 (FCC 96-264), mandated the phased deployment of capabilities to provide increasingly precise location information with wireless E9-1-1 calls, known as Phases I and II; *and*

WHEREAS, NENA's data indicates that 76.1% of counties, covering 90% of the population, contain public safety answering points accepting Phase I wireless E9-1-1 calls in which the call taker automatically receives the wireless phone number with the call, but no precise location; *and*

WHEREAS, Only 53% of counties, covering 78.4% of the population, contain public safety answering points accepting Phase II wireless E9-1-1 calls in which the call taker automatically receives the wireless phone number and location information; *and*

WHEREAS, Public safety answering points are funded in large part at the State and local level through E9-1-1 fees assessed on individual wireline and wireless telephone bills; *and*

WHEREAS, Public safety answering point funding levels in some areas declines as consumers choose to give up their wireline service, and the 9-1-1 fees associated with wireline service, in favor of alternative technologies that do not currently contribute to 9-1-1 funding; *and*

WHEREAS, Congress passed the ENHANCE 911 Act of 2004 which establishes a national 9-1-1 Implementation and Coordination Office (ICO), a joint program office between NHTSA and NTIA, and authorized Congress to provide \$250 million per year for up to five years in grants to be administered by the ICO to public safety answering points, but to date has failed to appropriate funding for such grants; *now therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened in its November 2006 Annual Convention in Miami, Florida, finds there is a critical need at all levels of government to ensure that appropriate levels of funding are provided to public safety answering points to maintain and improve current service levels and to modernize the nation's 9-1-1 system; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC supports the appropriations requests of the Congressional E9-1-1 Caucus to provide funding for PSAPs authorized by the ENHANCE 911 Act of 2004; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC looks forward to working with the FCC's newly established Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau to provide increased focus and leadership on the issue of next generation 9-1-1 and the overall management of 9-1-1 issues to ensure that all parts of the country have full E9-1-1 service; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC directs its General Counsel, in coordination with appropriate State Commissioners and staff, to communicate the policies contained in this resolution with all relevant Federal and State agencies, Congress, and policymakers at the Federal and State level.

Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications

Recommended by the NARUC Board of Directors November 14, 2006

Adopted by the Committee of the Whole November 15, 2006