

LOCAL LAW NO. ____ - 2023

A LOCAL LAW PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY ROUTING OF
EMERGENCY 911 CALLS

BE IT ENACTED by the Town Board of the Town of Inlet as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Intent The Town Board recognizes the paramount importance of the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Town and further recognizes that, when the lives or property of its citizens are in imminent danger, appropriate assistance must be rendered as expeditiously as possible.

The Town Board further recognizes that such assistance is usually summoned by 911 emergency telephone communications including via land line phones, wireless phones, cable phones and others and that avoidable delays in reaching appropriate emergency aid can and do occur to the detriment and jeopardy of life and property when such 911 calls from within the Town are routed to anywhere other than directly to the Herkimer County Public Safety Answering Point System (HCPSAPS).

The Town Board further finds that the HCPSAPS has accurate, current and extensive knowledge of the Town of Inlet's geography, roadways, landmarks, emergency service resources and similar information of critical importance in emergency situations and can immediately and directly dispatch the number and type of emergency services the situation requires.

The Town Board further finds that a major obstacle to the prompt response to emergency requests for assistance in the Town is the failure of telephone service suppliers and/or emergency call dispatchers to directly route such calls to the HCPSAPS. The Town currently has a contract with Herkimer County providing for routing of emergency calls to HCPSAPS and wishes to require that such calls continue to be so routed as provided for in the contract.

The Town Board further finds and declares that, by the enactment of this Local Law, it is the intent of the Town Board to best provide for the health, safety and welfare of the people of this Town by mandating the direct routing of all 911 emergency calls including land line, wireless and any and all calls by service suppliers and dispatchers directly to the HCPSAPS so as to facilitate the rendering of emergency services as expeditiously and effectively as possible without regard to municipal governmental boundaries. More specifically, the Town further recognizes and acknowledges development of a Hamilton County emergency telecommunications system and the possibility that it may someday be appropriate for emergency service calls from Inlet to be routed through the Hamilton County system. However, at this point in time, the Town Board specifically and expressly finds that emergency services can be provided more expeditiously by continuing routing to HCPSAPS as provided for in the existing contract between the Town and Herkimer County.

Section 2. Routing All telephone service suppliers doing business in the Town of Inlet and all emergency service call dispatchers shall route all 911 emergency calls originating from the Town of Inlet directly to the HCPSAPS.

Section 3. Termination of Mandate Such routing to the HCPSAPS shall continue to be mandated until and unless the Town Board determines at some time in the future that it is equally or more protective of public safety for emergency service calls to be routed to the Hamilton County or some other emergency telecommunications system.

Section 4. Prohibited Acts

a. No telephone service supplier or dispatcher shall knowingly fail to route 911 telephone calls originating within the Town of Inlet to the HCPSAPS.

b. No owner, official, employee or agent of any telephone service supplier shall design, implement, arrange or cause, either directly or indirectly, a process or activity whereby 911 calls are routed other than to the HCPSAPS.

c. No person or entity shall either directly or indirectly solicit, suggest, implore agree, or otherwise take action so as to cause or seek to cause any telephone service supplier or dispatcher to route 911 calls from within the Town of Inlet to other than the HCPSAPS.

Section 5. Sanctions Any person or entity violating this Local Law shall be subject to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars. For purpose of this Local Law, each improperly routed 911 call shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 6. Additional Remedies The Town Board is authorized to pursue any appropriate legal remedy including but not limited to injunction to effectuate the purposes of this Local Law.

Section 7. Severability If any provision of this Local Law shall be adjudged by any Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, then such adjudication shall not

affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the particular provision directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

Section 8. Effective Date This Local Law shall take effect immediately.

Dated:

Effective:

N:\Clients\INLET\Local Laws\Local Law 911 Calls 2.02.23.docx

