

Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis

Council Bill No. 59-2020 - REVISED

Introduced: November 2, 2020

Auditor: Michael A. Martin

Fiscal Impact:

We have updated our analysis to reflect the latest cost information obtained from the various departments impacted by this legislation.

The fiscal impact of this legislation could be up to \$151,500 for the first year of implementation with \$56,000 in ongoing annual costs to the County to conduct inspections.

The Department of Fire and Rescue Services (DFRS) has indicated their plan is to have current staff conduct the required inspections during the normal course of their job. However, they have indicated a potential need for additional contingent Fire Inspectors. As noted below, these inspectors would add \$89,500 in the first year and \$56,000 to ongoing annual costs.

A breakdown of these expenditures is in the table below.

Department	Cost Details	Year 1 Costs	Ongoing Costs (after Year 1)
DTCS	Phone System Enhancements	\$ 60,000	\$ -
DFRS	Public Awareness Flyers	1,000	-
DFRS	Inspection Tracking Software	1,000	-
	Subtotal (No additional staff)	62,000	0
DFRS	Inspector Salary	38,000	38,000
DFRS	Annual Reinspection Costs	15,000	15,000
DFRS	Vehicle Maintenance	3,000	3,000
DFRS	Inspector Vehicle	30,000	-
DFRS	Inspector Work-Station	3,500	-
	Additional Staff Cost	89,500	56,000
TOTAL (with additional staff)		\$ 151,500	\$ 56,000

The Police Department confirmed there will be minimal to no cost associated with the Public Awareness Campaign as social media will be leveraged to communicate this initiative.

The Department of Technology & Communications will hire a contractor to make the system enhancements noted above in order to comply with Kari's Law and the Ray Baum Act. Additional details on these federal laws can be found in **Attachment A** below.

There will be no need to install new hardware, although software adjustments will be required to enhance compliance.

The Police Department does not anticipate collecting fines during the first year of enforcement, or even thereafter, as their goal focuses on raising awareness and promoting voluntary compliance.

Purpose:

This legislation would require all multiple-line telephone systems (MLTS) to allow direct dialing of 911 and establish inspections and penalties relating to the implementation of such direct access.

Other Comments:

Compliance with Kari's Law is required for the County to receive funding from the 911 Trust Fund, which awarded the County \$2.8 million through the 3rd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2020.

Currently employed, part-time contingent Fire Department Code Enforcement Inspectors have already begun verifying compliance during normal business checks for fire code requirements. These inspectors earn \$23 per hour and work 18 to 30 hours per week.

Attachment A¹

Ray Baum Act – Dispatchable Location for MLTS

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted rules to ensure that the “dispatchable location” is conveyed with 911 calls to dispatch centers, regardless of the technological platform used, including 911 calls from MLTS. Dispatchable location means a location delivered to the public safety answering point (PSAP) with a 911 call that consists of the validated street address of the calling party, plus additional information such as suite, apartment, or similar information necessary to adequately identify the location of the calling party.

Kari’s Law – Direct Dialing and Notification for MLTS

This law requires direct 911 dialing and notification capabilities in MLTS, which are typically found in enterprises such as office buildings, campuses, and hotels. These requirements became effective February 16, 2020, two years after the enactment date of Kari’s Law. In addition, Kari’s Law and the federal rules are forward-looking and apply only with respect to MLTS that are manufactured, imported, offered for first sale or lease, first sold or leased, or installed after February 16, 2020.

¹ Information on these federal laws obtained from FCC website:
<https://www.fcc.gov/mlts-911-requirements>