

RAPIDES PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT

ORDINANCE NO. 2025 - 001

Ordinance relating to the emergency telephone service charge on fixed location wireline service users to 2025 AT&T tariff rates; converting said tariff rates to a flat rate; establishing the rates for residential and business fixed location **wireline** service users and otherwise providing with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, in 1986 by majority approval of the voters of Rapides Parish of the RAPIDES Parish Communications District ("Communications District") was provided the authority to impose a 9-1-1 service charge throughout the entirety of the District at a maximum allowed collection for fixed location wire line service subscribers not to exceed 5% of the tariff rate based on the highest amount charged for basic service within the District by an exchange access service provider or equivalent; and,

WHEREAS, during the 1997 Session of the Louisiana Legislature, HB 300 was enacted (Act 758), which granted the Communications District the authority to convert from the tariff-based fees to a flat fee assessment; and,

WHEREAS, the Communications District Board of Commissioners as allowed by LA R.S. 33:9106 as amended by the Louisiana Legislature converted the rate schedule for its service charge to flat rate on November 12, 1997 (amended) through the passage of Resolution No. 97-004 in an effort to stabilize wire line income for the District; and

WHEREAS, through the passage of Act 1029 of 1999, the Louisiana Legislature materially modified Louisiana law concerning a communications district's ability to impose telephone emergency service charges, specifically through modifications of R.S. 33:9106 (B), which gave blanket authority to communications districts, subject to voter approval, to impose such fees on a not to exceed 5% of the tariff rate; and

WHEREAS, AT&T Louisiana confirms in publication entitled LA-25-0001 General Exchange Guidebook, Effective February 16, 2025 a tariff rate increase for both residential and business wire line subscribers located in Zone 1, which includes Rapides Parish and depicts the rate for Residential Flat Rate being \$52.00 per month and Business Single Line Flat Rate Service being \$403.00 per month; and,

WHEREAS, the District's Board of Commissioners in its need to remedy the disparaging loss in revenues due to the critical and ever-increasing loss of wire line service subscribers must consider all responsible funding options and sources with prudence;

BE IT THEREFORE ORDAINED BY THE RAPIDES PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT THAT:

SECTION 1. The Rapides Parish Communications District Board, pursuant to LA R.S. 33:9101 et seq. as amended by the Louisiana Legislature, hereby authorizes the conversion from a flat fee for wire line residential lines to the amount of 4.35% of the present tariff rate based on the highest amount charged for basic service within the District by an exchange access service provider or equivalent, or \$2.25 per access line per month, for Residential service users of fixed location wire line (i.e., landline telephone exchange service), whose address is within the boundaries of Rapides Parish.

SECTION 2. The Rapides Parish Communications District Board, hereby authorizes the conversion from a flat fee for wire line business lines to the a percentage of the tariff rate; however, in recognition of the burden of taxation on the business community within the Parish, hereby further authorizes the tariff

based flat fee emergency telephone service charge paid by Business service users of fixed location wire line, whose address is within the boundaries Rapides Parish to the amount equal to 2% instead of the 5% as authorized in the present tariff based rate, or \$8.00 per access line per month.

SECTION 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. If any provision of this ordinance shall be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions herein which can be given effect without the invalid provision, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

SECTION 6. The effective date of this Ordinance is October 1, 2025.

WHERE UPON THIS ORDINANCE WAS SUBMITTED TO A VOTE AND RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING:

YEAS: Darrell Basco, Vernon Creecy, Sam Debona, Paul Fuselier, Marcus Sandoval,
Ryan Spiller, Mark Tigner and Russell Turnage

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Jason Dewitt

This Ordinance was declared duly adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Rapides Parish Communications District on June 11, 2025.

RAPIDES PARISH COMMUNICATION DISTRICT

BY:  _____
RYAN SPILLER, CHAIRMAN