

RESOLUTION No 6579-2024

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEBASTOPOL
REQUESTING THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
DENY AT&T'S APPLICATIONS TO BE RELIEVED OF ITS CARRIER OF LAST
RESORT AND ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATION CARRIER DESIGNATIONS

WHEREAS, AT&T has submitted applications, A.23-03-002 and A.23-03-003, through the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to be relieved of its Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) and Eligible Telecommunication Carrier (ETC) designations in certain areas of California including Sebastopol and surrounding areas without identifying an alternative carrier to assume responsibility for maintaining the landline communication services^{1, 2} and

WHEREAS, a COLR obligation ensures that everyone in California has access to safe, reliable, and affordable telephone service; and

WHEREAS, an ETC is a telephone company operating in a specific geographic area, that receives financial assistance from the federal government established Universal Service Fund to provide high quality, and affordable telephone service to customers at all income levels in specific geographic areas; and

WHEREAS if approved, AT&T would have no obligation to ensure reliable access to 9-1-1 or LifeLine program discounts; and

WHEREAS landline phones can be more reliable than Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) and wireless cell phones for emergencies, especially during a power outage³; and

WHEREAS during the 2017 Tubbs Fire in Santa Rosa over 70 cell towers were knocked out of operation⁴ and wireless emergency notifications during the 2018 Camp Fire failed⁵; and

WHEREAS, residents and businesses in Sebastopol, including the City of Sebastopol depend on landline phones.

¹ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/news-and-outreach/documents/pao/pphs/2024/a2303002-a2303003-pph-fact-sheet-final.pdf>

² <https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Efile/G000/M521/K479/521479757.PDF>

³ <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/news-and-outreach/documents/pao/party-positions/2024/a2303003-summary-of-party-positions-for-pacific-bell-telephone-company-and-intervenors.pdf>

⁴ <https://norcalpublicmedia.org/2021/07/14/64641/news-feed/despite-improvements-since-tubbs-fire-emergency-notifications-remain-imperfect>

⁵ <https://insider.govtech.com/california/news/camp-fire-aftermath-technology-the-thing-i-trust-most-failed.html>

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Sebastopol requests the CPUC deny AT&T applications, A.23-03-002 and A.23-03-003; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk mail a physical copy and submit an electronic copy of this Resolution to the CPUC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk mail a physical copy and submit an electronic copy of this Resolution to Sonoma County Supervisor Lynda Hopkins.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the CITY COUNCIL of THE CITY OF SEBASTOPOL COUNTY OF SONOMA of STATE OF CALIFORNIA on this 2nd day of April 2024.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the City of Sebastopol City Council by the following vote:

VOTE:

Ayes: Councilmembers Hinton, Maurer, McLewis, Vice Mayor Zollman and Mayor Rich

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

APPROVED: DocuSigned by:
Diana Rich
246D41281D2748F
Mayor Diana Gardner Rich

ATTEST: Mary C. Gourley
Mary Gourley, MMC, Assistant City Manager / City Clerk

Approved as to Form: DocuSigned by:
Larry McLaughlin
CB49803E3308413
Larry McLaughlin, City Attorney