



PORT GAMBLE S'KLALLAM TRIBE

31912 Little Boston Road NE
Kingston, WA 98346
(360) 297-2646 (360) 297-7097 Fax

September 23, 2011

CENCOM Board
911 Carver Street
Bremerton, WA 98312

Dear CENCOM Board members,

I would like to thank you for the courtesy of listening to the concerns of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe at the meeting in Bremerton on September 20, 2011. I do believe we can work together to reach an equitable solution to the fee structure concerns that were discussed.

I would like to clarify a few issues that may have been misunderstood by some, or all, of those present at the meeting, and certainly seems to have been missed in the newspaper article in the Kitsap Sun on September 21, 2011.

First, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe has NEVER refused to make payments for 911 dispatch services for our police department since signing the first and only contract in 1993.

Our recent payments for an average of 2,725 (2009) calls per year were as follows:

2009	\$13,550	\$4.97 per call
2010	\$14,787	\$5.43 per call
2011	\$17,285	\$6.34 per call (a 28% increase over 2009)

The \$50,000 “minimum” instituted by the Board results in:

2011	\$50,000	\$18.35 per call (a 269% increase over 2009)
------	----------	--

The Kitsap County average cost of 201,912 calls per year paid by Police CENCOM fees:

2011 \$1,313,471 **\$6.51** per call

The Board seems to think that we are delinquent in our payments. We are not. The Tribe and CENCOM have not negotiated a new contract to reflect any proposed changes in the fee structure. We are willing to pay, and have paid, the same cost per call as any other police jurisdiction. We are proud that we have always paid our full fair share of police 911 dispatch costs consistently over the past 18 consecutive years.

The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, after discussions with Mr. Kirton, opted to pay the SAME COST PER CALL AS BAINBRIDGE ISLAND AND OTHER JURISDICTIONS FOR 2010 AND 2011. We made all payments promptly and we are the ONLY police department in the county fully paid up through December 31, 2011. We VOLUNTARILY charged ourselves a 28% increase over our 2009 fees. This is comparable to Bremerton, Poulsbo, and Port Orchard.

The Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe does NOT need time to arrange "catch-up" payments. We are already "caught-up" and have paid our fair share of 911 CENCOM services. The formula is flawed and is biased against the "little guy" struggling to reduce crime in their communities, in favor of larger entities.

70% of the funding for CENCOM comes from telephone and sales taxes, all of which include contributions from Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribal members. These funds cover ALL of the fixed costs and technical backup for CENCOM. The fees charged to police and fire departments cover only the daily operational costs such as administration and telephone dispatchers.

The \$50,000 "minimum" is a wild guess (confirmed, as such, by Mr. Kirton in May of 2010) and cannot represent the true basic costs of 911 dispatch services. We were not able to justify to our Tribal Council, nor to our members, a "minimum" amount that has no mathematical justification. We, as is the case with most governments, are prohibited from paying any bill that has no basis in fact.

It costs the same to answer each call whether the police department is small or large. We would request you consider instituting a flat, per call, rate for the police dispatch fees and bringing this decision to your Director's attention. This will still result in full payments for all operational costs and will not be controversial. CENCOM should be striving to provide services to even the tiniest entity to ensure the safety of everyone in our communities.

We do believe that our present contract forbids an increase in rates without renegotiation with the Tribe. This contract, we believe, is a duplicate of those used for all police service areas throughout Kitsap County.

We are also pleased that our request for membership on your Board is being reviewed.

Thank you for your consideration of these thoughts. We believe that the services CENCOM provide are of the highest quality. We believe that 911 services are a right of the citizenry of Kitsap County and provide fundamental protection and enhancement of the health and safety of all residents and visitors.

Sincerely,



Jeromy Sullivan
Tribal Chairman

CC Kitsap Sun