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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

### **Mandatory 10-Digit Dialing is Here For Callers in the Ohio 740 Area Code**

Beginning March 21, 2015, all local calls made within the Ohio 740 area code must be placed using the 10 or 11 digit telephone number (area code plus the 7-digit telephone number or 1+area code + 7-digit telephone number).

To ensure a continuing supply of telephone numbers, the new 220 area code will be added to the 740 area code region which generally covers the southeastern portion of the state of Ohio serving communities such as Chillicothe, Bainbridge, Kingston, Richmond Dale, Lancaster, Newark, Marietta, Portsmouth and Zanesville. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) ordered an area code overlay for the area served by 740. The new 220 area code will be “overlaid” or superimposed over the same geographical area as the 740 area code.

Residential and business customers within the existing 740 area code should be prepared for the introduction of the new 220 area code. Beginning April 22, 2015, customers in the 740 area code region requesting new service, an additional line, or in some cases, moving their service may be assigned a number in the new 220 area code.

Effective March 21, 2015, 10 or 11-digit dialing – the appropriate area code plus the seven-digit telephone number or 1+ area code + telephone number – will be necessary for local and expanded local calls to be completed. Local calling areas and rates will not be affected by this change.

The most important facts that consumers and businesses need to know about the upcoming 220 area code overlay are:

- Your telephone number, including current area code, will not change.
- You will need to dial area code + telephone number for all local calls.
- You will continue to dial 1+ area code + telephone number for all long distance calls.
- What is a local call now will remain a local call.
- The price of a call, coverage area, or other rates and services will not change due to the overlay.
- You can still dial just three digits to reach 911.
- If 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711 or 811 are currently available in your community, you will still dial these codes with just three digits

Customers should identify their telephone number as a ten digit number (Area Code + seven digit telephone number), and include the area code when giving the number to their friends, family, business associates and customers, etc.

Customers should ensure that all services, automatic dialing equipment, applications, software, or other types of equipment recognize the new 220 area code as a valid area code. Some examples are life safety systems, fax machines, Internet dial-up numbers, alarm and security systems, gates, speed dialers, mobile phone contact lists, call forwarding settings, voicemail services, and similar functions. Be sure to check your business stationery, advertising materials, personal checks, and your personal or pet ID tags to ensure the area code is included in your telephone number. Remember that all local calls must be programmed using 10-digits and you need to add "1" for all long distance calls.

For more information, please visit [www.PUCO.ohio.gov](http://www.PUCO.ohio.gov). If customers have any questions regarding information provided in this release, please call Horizon at 740-772-8331

**About Horizon** - With corporate offices in Chillicothe, Ohio, Horizon Telcom is a leading broadband provider of advanced data services in southern and eastern Ohio. Utilizing its extensive network of fiber optic cable, Horizon delivers advanced high speed data services, Internet, voice, digital video, security and monitoring services. Horizon's entrepreneurial heritage and long-standing commitment to remarkable customer care ensures its devotion to connecting its customers to their worlds through the delivery of cutting-edge broadband technology and proven telecommunication systems.

For more information about Horizon, visit the company's website at [www.horizontel.com](http://www.horizontel.com).