



**Shawnee County
Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Brian C. Hill
Law Enforcement Center**

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Via Electronic Comment Filing System

October 17, 2019

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Notice of *Ex Parte*, PS Docket No. 07-114

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am the Director of the Shawnee County Emergency Communications Center in Topeka, Kansas. I write to provide an operational perspective on the type of location information needed by 9-1-1 professionals to best carry out our mission to protect and save lives.

My agency processes 103,000 9-1-1 calls per year, with approximately 84% originating from cell phones. We are a consolidated communication center dispatching for 5 law enforcement agencies and 8 fire departments serving a population of 180,000 people and covering 560 square miles of jurisdiction.

Vertical location information for 9-1-1 callers from inside buildings could improve emergency response. The location information must be actionable, meaning that Public Safety Telecommunicators (PSTs) can quickly use it to assist the caller and direct responders to the scene. A "dispatchable location," as defined by the FCC, remains the gold standard from an operational perspective. However, if wireless carriers are unable to provide a dispatchable location, and instead provide z-axis information, they should be required to make that information as actionable as possible by including an estimated a floor number.

A raw vertical estimate is of little operational value if it is relative to height above mean sea level (AMSL) or above ground level (AGL). 9-1-1 centers like mine simply do not have the resources to create and maintain indoor maps for buildings in our jurisdictions. Even if we did, we would not have the ability to translate AMSL or AGL to a floor, or visualize a three dimensional point in space. Additionally, the information we receive from wireless carriers should enable us to do better for our law enforcement, fire, and EMS counterparts in the field than providing a height estimate that they then would try to match with their own devices. In order for 9-1-1 professionals to have the information they need to ensure that responders arrive as quickly as possible, they at least need a floor number estimate (e.g., "4th floor" rather than "12 meters AMSL"). Accordingly, as you contemplate rules for a z-axis metric, please consider

requiring wireless carriers to provide a floor number as part of the z-axis information. Requiring wireless carriers to provide actionable location information about 9-1-1 callers will save lives.

Thank you for taking my views into consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melanie Bergers".

Melanie Bergers

Communications Director

Shawnee County Emergency Communications Center

Shawnee County Sheriff's Office