

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20544**

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| In the Matter of |) | |
| |) | |
| Implementing Kari’s Law and Section 506 of |) | PS Docket No. 18-261 |
| RAY BAUM’S Act |) | |
| |) | |
| Inquiry Concerning 911 Access, Routing, and |) | PS Docket No. 17-239 |
| Location in Enterprise Communications |) | |
| Systems |) | |

REPLY COMMENTS OF T-MOBILE USA, INC.

T-Mobile USA, Inc. (“T-Mobile”)¹ submits these reply comments regarding the Commission’s NPRM proposing new rules implementing Kari’s Law and RAY BAUM’S Act.² T-Mobile supports the Commission’s goals of direct-dial access to 911 and improving location information for all 911 calls. But it also echoes concerns in the record regarding the feasibility and timing of some of the NPRM’s proposals. T-Mobile therefore urges the Commission to approach its obligations in a reasonable manner that allows for multiple ways by which providers can comply with possible new regulations.

With respect to improving location accuracy for 911 calls, T-Mobile understands the desire to achieve dispatchable location for technologies other than wireless. However, the record contains nearly universal support for the Commission to advance its statutory responsibilities in a manner that offers providers sufficient flexibility and promotes innovation. Many commenters

¹ T-Mobile USA, Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of T-Mobile US, Inc., a publicly traded corporation.

² *Implementing Kari’s Law and Section 506 of RAY BAUM’S Act and Inquiry Concerning 911 Access, Routing, and Location in Enterprise Communications Systems*, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC No. 18-132, PS Docket Nos. 18-26, 17-239 (rel. Sept. 26, 2018) (“*Kari’s Law NPRM*”).

encourage the Commission to avoid rigid, one-size-fits all regulations,³ and propose that, if the Commission extends dispatchable location requirements to services other than CMRS, it also should allow for other methods to meet potential new 911 location accuracy rules, including by providing accurate geodetic coordinates. Though uniformity across platforms is an admirable goal, the Commission should keep in mind that many platforms cannot support dispatchable location for all 911 calls.⁴ T-Mobile supports proposals to permit the use of alternatives to dispatchable location, including horizontal and vertical coordinates.

A mandate that all service providers, regardless of technology, make dispatchable location available for all 911 calls would, at this time, be infeasible. Indeed, notwithstanding some comments that suggest otherwise,⁵ the Commission's wireless 911 location accuracy rules recognize this state of affairs.⁶ In the *Wireless Location Accuracy Fourth Report and Order*, the Commission adopted a framework allowing wireless carriers to meet location obligations *either* through the use of dispatchable location *or* with highly accurate geolocation coordinates.⁷ As T-

³ See Comments of Ad Hoc Telecommunications Users Committee at 3; Comments of Alliance of Telecommunications Industry Solutions ("ATIS") at 3; Comments of American Cable Association at 3; Comments of Microsoft Corporation at 9–11; Comments of NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association at 2–3; Comments of Telecommunications Industry Association at 6; Comments of West Safety Services, Inc. at 6. Unless otherwise noted, all comments cited were filed December 10, 2018 in PS Docket Nos. 18-261 and 17-239.

⁴ See, e.g., Comments of Ad Hoc Telecommunications Users Committee at 13; Comments of American Cable Association at 4–5; Comments of American Hotel & Lodging Association at 8–10; Comments of AT&T at 8–9; Comments of Sorenson Communications, LLC at 8; Comments of Telecommunications Industry Association at 17; Comments of Verizon at 9–10; Comments of West Safety Services, Inc. at 10–11.

⁵ See, e.g., Comments of APCO International at 4.

⁶ See, e.g., 47 C.F.R. § 20.18(i)(2)(i), and Proposed Rule § 9.10(i)(2)(i).

⁷ *Wireless E911 Location Accuracy Requirements*, Fourth Report and Order, 30 FCC Rcd. 1259 ¶ 6 (2015) ("All CMRS providers must provide (1) dispatchable location, or (2) x/y location within 50 meters, for the following percentages of wireless 911 calls...") (*Wireless Location Accuracy Fourth Report and Order*).

Mobile noted in that proceeding, infeasible and inflexible mandates can stifle innovation and make it less likely that carriers will be able to provide the most accurate location information available for a given call.⁸ The Commission's adoption of a flexible framework for wireless location accuracy has ensured that providers can invest in innovative technologies that improve wireless 911 service for all users.

The Commission should adopt a similar approach in meeting its obligations under Kari's Law and RAY BAUM'S Act. Not only will providing such flexibility ensure that its rules are feasible, and therefore achievable, but it will also ensure that no provider or class of provider is subject to more burdensome requirements than others. Rigid mandates, particularly with respect to areas in which technology is rapidly evolving—including location technologies—will likely only serve to inhibit innovation. Although dispatchable location is the “gold standard” for 911 location, technologies like device-based hybrid location have the capability to provide geolocation information with a high degree of accuracy, and such technologies are constantly improving. Accordingly, the Commission should adopt flexible rules that recognize this shifting technological landscape.

T-Mobile also echoes the concerns of many stakeholders that it is premature to consider using the NEAD to provide dispatchable location for technologies other than wireless.⁹ The NEAD is still under development and has yet to be used in a true production environment; wireless carriers are still in the early stages of integrating the platform into their networks and have only recently begun testing it. Additionally, as ATIS notes, there are no standards for use

⁸ See, e.g., Reply Comments of T-Mobile at 28, PS Docket No. 07-114 (filed July 14, 2014).

⁹ See Comments of The Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS) at 4 (“ATIS Comments”); Comments of AT&T at 10; Comments of Comtech Telecommunications Corp. at 5; Comments of Microsoft Corporation at 15–17; *c.f.* Comments of Cisco Systems, Inc. at 20–22.

of the NEAD by providers other than wireless carriers.¹⁰ Therefore, at this stage in the NEAD's development, it does not make sense to consider extending its use to technologies other than wireless until the database's utility has been proven.

Finally, T-Mobile encourages the Commission to refrain from moving forward in this proceeding on location enhancements for text-to-911. Such enhancements should be addressed in the Commission's next-generation 911 proceedings. Text-to-911 as implemented today is an interim, SMS-based solution that will be supplanted by more robust text-based features (including real-time text) in NG911 environments. Therefore, it would be most prudent to examine possible text-to-911 location requirements in proceedings that are focused on next-generation emergency communications.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

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¹⁰ ATIS Comments at 4.