

April 29, 2019

Michael J. Wilhelm
Chief, Policy and Licensing Division
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 12th Street SW Washington, DC 20554

Re: Denver Wireless Emergency Alert Test

Dear Chief Wilhelm:

The City and County of Denver's Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEM) would like to request an FCC Rule Waiver to conduct a live Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) test for the City and County of Denver on Wednesday, May 8, 2019, at 11:00 AM MDT with a backup date of Thursday, May 16, 2019, at 11:00 AM MDT. Simultaneously to the WEA test the City and County of Denver will like to conduct a test of its Outdoor Warning Siren System. This is the first time Denver is testing these systems together.

If approved, the City and County of Denver would use the IPAWS-OPEN module of WebEOC to issue the test message between the hours of 11:00 AM MDT to 11:30 AM MDT. Denver International Airport staff will utilize the Everbridge platform as a backup system should the first alert fail to send correctly through WebEOC. This test message will be sent through the WEA text portion of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) and will only be broadcast to cell phones within the geographical boundaries of the City and County of Denver. The test message will read: This is a test of the Public Alert and Warning Systems for Denver, CO. This is a test.

As Emergency Managers, we are tasked with providing timely alert notifications to our residents and officials during incidents and that impact life, safety, and property. The purpose of this test is to ensure that the WEA system will work during such emergencies. It is essential that the public be familiar with WEA, and that Denver OEM be proficient in the use of sending a WEA message before the initiation of an actual alert. This WEA test is not intended to be a substitute for other scheduled WEA tests.

Denver OEM's Public Information Officer (PIO) is currently working on a multi-media marketing plan for the proposed upcoming Denver WEA test to ensure public understanding of the function and utility of the Wireless Emergency Alerts. The PIO is also focusing marketing on messaging and awareness, so that the general public understands that the May 8th, WEA alert is just a test. This plan will be shared with the all City and County of Denver staff, major local

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media outlets, neighboring jurisdictions, PIOs and will be posted on social media. Special coordination will take place with Denver Police, Denver Fire, Denver 311, and Denver 911 to ensure that they are all aware of the planned test. The Emergency Managers plan to record test results and provide a detailed account of any problems that occur in the distribution of the WEA test to your office.

The Denver OEM is requesting this waiver nine days before the test since we were under the impression that state and local emergency managers would not need a waiver to conduct this kind of test after May 1, 2019.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Loa Esquilín García, Public Information Officer, Denver OEM at Loa.Esquilin@Denvergov.org or 720-557-5661.

Sincerely,



Ryan Broughton, CEM®, CBCP
Executive Director
Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security