

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency

Muriel Bowser
Mayor



Dr. Christopher Rodriguez
Director

April 17, 2019

Elizabeth Cuttner
Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
Room 7-A846
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: FCC Rule Waiver Request for
Live District of Columbia Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) Test

Dear Ms Cuttner,

The District of Columbia would like to request an FCC Rule Waiver on behalf of participating Commercial Mobile Services (CMS) providers to conduct a live Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) test for the city of Washington, DC. The city will use the Everbridge Alert Notification System on June 22, 2019 or, if necessary, a back-up date of June 23, 2019, at 11:00AM (EDT) to conduct a geotargeted WEA test for the area surrounding National Mall. The purpose of this test is to prepare for the annual National July 4th celebration, which is expected to include participation from the President of the United States. If the President participates, the District of Columbia anticipates increased attendance and, potentially, counter protests or demonstrations. The purpose of this test is to ensure that, should an incident occur on July 4, the District of Columbia Government and HSEMA can notify attendees on the Mall of the incident through the WEA system.

In the past, the July 4th celebration has drawn approximately 500,000 spectators and participants. It is estimated that only about 20 percent of these spectators are from the Nation Capitol Region (NCR). Most visitors, the remaining 80 percent, are national and international visitors who are not signed up for local alerts via the AlertDC or Capitalert system. The purpose of the test is to ensure that alerts can be sent to these visitors during an incident. The target audience for the test will be tourists, vendors, and other visitors that are not District residents and that are not signed for AlertDC. The live test, pending your approval, is scheduled to occur between 11:00AM-11:30AM and will involve the use of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) WEA dissemination method. The target area polygon will cover the National Mall from 3rd Street NW and SW to the east; Pennsylvania Ave N.W. and E Street Ave NW to the north; the Southwest Freeway and Independence Ave, SW to the south; and the Lincoln Memorial Circle to the west.

The test message will read: **This is a test of the District of Columbia Wireless Emergency Alert. No action is required**

This will be the third WEA test conducted by the District. The first test was conducted on January 15, 2017, in preparation for the Presidential Inauguration, and the second was conducted in April 2018 as part of the NCR test. If the FCC approves this request, the District of Columbia will begin working on multimedia public announcements of the upcoming WEA test, which will include coordination with Public Information Officers from the local NCR jurisdictions, Police, Fire and local 911 centers, FEMA, FCC, CTIA, wireless providers and local news networks. Following the test, we will utilize an online survey to determine whether any problems occurred, including whether users inside the test perimeter did not receive the alert. We will then prepare an After Action Report for FEMA-IPAWS, FCC and CTIA.

As emergency managers, we are tasked with alerting the public to hazards or threats and providing response guidance. As the Nation's Capital, the District of Columbia faces a wide variety of unique hazards that could impact our residents and guests. The purpose of this test is to ensure that the WEA system can be used during emergencies to accurately and effectively send alerts to residents and visitors in a localized area. Additionally, it is essential that the public be familiar with WEA and that



emergency managers be proficient in its use before an actual emergency occurs. As a result, the District believes that it is imperative to test the system now.

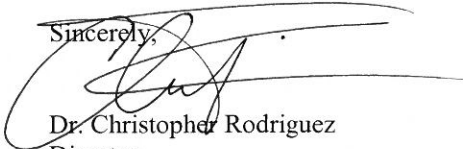
Members of the Joint All Hazard Operations Center (JAHOC) staff for HSEMA have been trained at the IPAWS Lab at Indian Head Navy Base and conduct monthly tests with the lab. The JAHOC sends a weekly test to the lab in preparation for the WEA 2.0 conversion this year.

The District of Columbia multimedia plan will be shared with the Public Information Officers in all surrounding jurisdictions for distribution to all media outlets, including daily newspapers and radio and television outlets, and will be posted on social media to ensure that they are aware of the test and can confirm to the public that the WEA message is a test. The public may receive multiple messages due to bleed over. HSEMA PIO has started working with the local PIOs and wireless providers on this test.

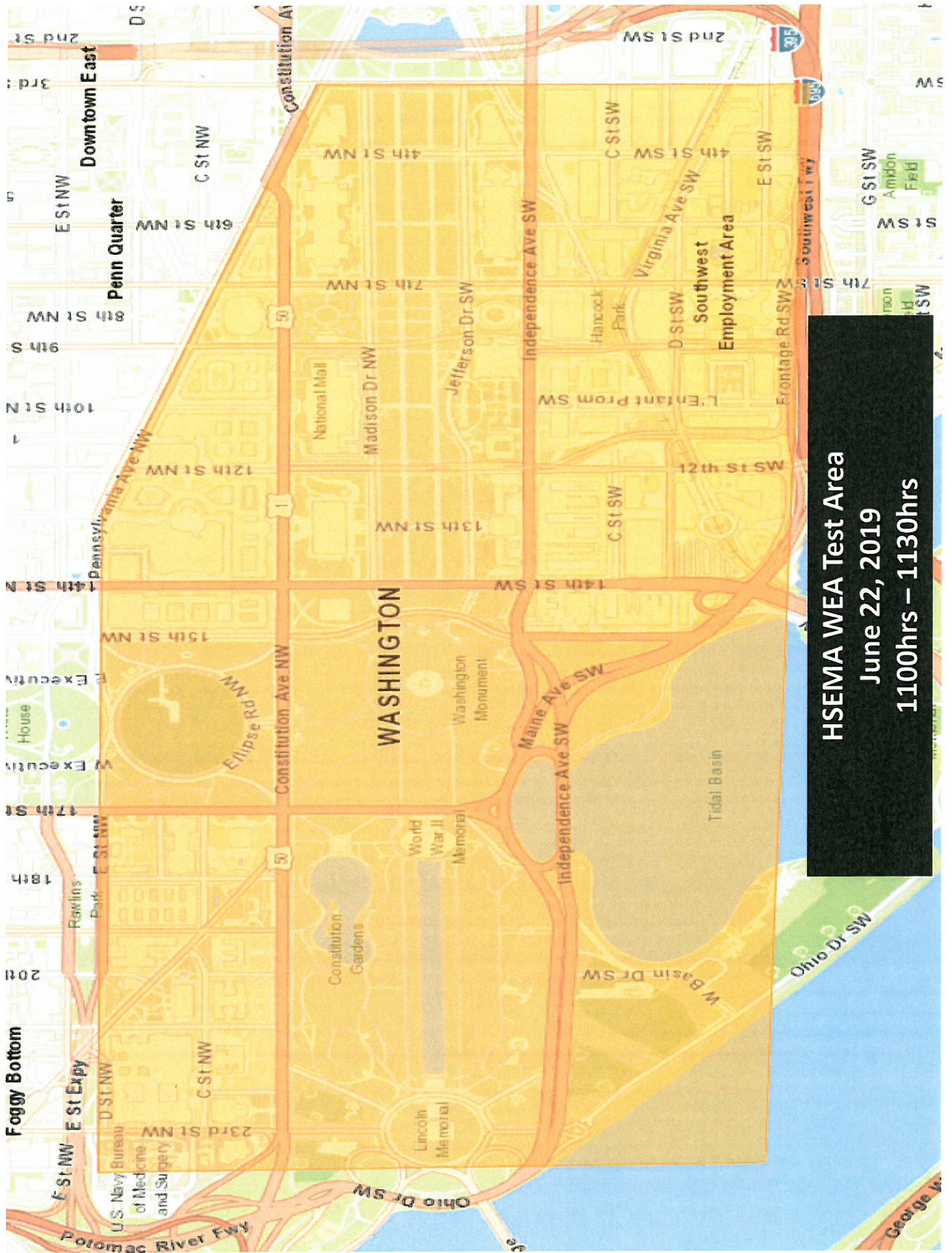
If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Clint Osborn, HSEMA Director of Operations, at clint.osborn@dc.gov or 202-727-6161; Frederick Goldsmith, HSEMA Deputy Chief of Operations, at frederick.goldsmith@dc.gov or 202-481-3169; or Robert Sneed, HSEMA Operations Supervisor, at robert.sneed@dc.gov or 202-481-3024.

Thank you for your assistance. We look forward to hearing from you soon so we can move forward with our planning.

Sincerely,



Dr. Christopher Rodriguez
Director



HSEMA WEA Test Area
June 22, 2019
1100hrs – 1130hrs