NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN®

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July 27, 2016

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Presentation (PS Docket No. 15-91)

Dear Secretary Dortch:

On July 21, 2016, Robert Hoever and Derek Bezy, staff from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), each spoke by phone with James Wiley, Attorney Advisor for the FCC Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau. Mr. Wiley also followed-up with additional questions sent via email on July 25th.

To date, NCMEC has provided operational support for more than 2,000 AMBER Alerts issued over the span of more than 10 years. Since the inception of the Wireless Emergency Alert program NCMEC has issued more than 300 WEA activations on behalf of AMBER Alert coordinators.

Validity, Accuracy and Security of Information

Drawing upon NCMEC's significant experience with AMBER Alerts and the WEA program, our staff described the process by which each activation is reviewed by the NCMEC Call Center to ensure at a minimum that:

- it originates from a valid, official source (e.g., an actual AMBER Coordinator);
- the information it contains was confirmed by the issuing law enforcement agency; and
- it is linked to a recognized AMBER Alert Plan.

NCMEC maintains up-to-date, detailed information about every recognized State, Regional, and Local AMBER Alert plan and the designated individual point(s) of contact for those plans. A map and basic public information about AMBER Alert plans can be found on NCMEC's website (http://www.missingkids.org/Amber).

Each of the above operational safeguards exist in addition to the best practices implemented by NCMEC's Technology Services Division to limit internal and external information security threats on our computers, networks, and other forms of communication. As described in earlier comments filed by NCMEC, the same precautions and security measures would be applied to any expanded WEA message content and embedded references.

Pilot Program and Testing Embedded References in WEA Messages

NCMEC strongly supports enhancing the capability of WEA messages, and remains committed to assisting with any necessary testing or pilot phase that might be required before full implementation. NCMEC was asked about a hypothetical scenario in which only certain commercial mobile service providers might accommodate embedded references in WEA messages during a testing period. It is always preferable to remain as uniform as possible and limit any complications that might arise from multiple versions of a message. Likewise, NCMEC would encourage all service providers to participate in this important joint project.

However, NCMEC did previously discuss a similar possibility for issuing multiple message formats, if the existing technology or systems of certain wireless carriers could not accommodate an expanded WEA message length (*see Ex Parte* notice filed by NCMEC on March 2, 2016). NCMEC is happy to discuss this issue further and to explore any reasonable accommodations that might be necessary during a pilot program if there is only partial participation or only partial testing. Finally, NCMEC would also encourage the Commission to contact FEMA with technology-related questions about distributing multiple versions of the WEA message.

As always, NCMEC appreciates the opportunity to discuss and be of assistance regarding these important issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Preston Findlay
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