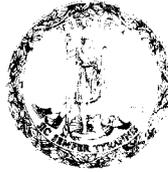


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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE

Col. M. Wayne DeLoach
Superintendent

SA 744-1000

P O BOX 2747 RICHMOND VA 23261-0274

May 8, 1996

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Attention: Robert McNamara
Reference: WT Docket No. 96-86

Dear Mr. McNamara,

The Virginia State Police is in agreement with the National Communications System (NCS) request that the Commission establish the Cellular Priority Access Service (CPAS). "Priority access" to cellular spectrum is essential by public safety providers when conducting response and recovery efforts.

Public safety providers must be guaranteed access to the cellular network for emergency preparedness reasons. Another spectrum for communications will be required if access to the cellular network cannot be achieved on an as-needed basis. Users of the cellular networks that are not public safety providers should have the duration of their calls limited so that a public safety provider can reliably communicate using the cellular network. It is common for news gathering businesses to "hold-on" to as many lines as can be obtained for their activities. This activity severely limits the number of connections that may be made in the immediate area of an emergency.

Authorized national security/emergency preparedness (NS/EP) users should be permitted to obtain access to cellular radio channels ahead of non-NS/EP users when cellular network congestion is blocking NS/EP call attempts. CPAS calls should preempt calls in progress when their duration is excessive for a given emergency situation.

We strongly recommend that the FCC provide "priority access" for public safety providers.

Sincerely,

Captain Arthur D. King
Communications Officer

ADK/TAS/ig

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