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THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION  
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EAST ELMHURST N.Y. 11370

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COMMISSIONER

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Reed F. Hundt  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: The Development of Operational, Technical  
and Spectrum Requirements for Meeting Federal,  
State and Local Public Safety Agency Communication  
Requirements Through the Year 2010

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Public Safety agencies across the country are in desperate need of additional radio communications channels. The Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee ("PSWAC"), jointly sponsored by the FCC and NTIA, recently released its "Final Report" which concludes that public safety agencies need at least 2.5 MHz of additional spectrum right now for interoperability, at least 25 MHz within five (5) years, and additional 70 MHz over the next fifteen (15) years.

The New York City Department of Correction submits this letter in strong support of the PSWAC findings, and urges that the FCC take immediate action to allocate spectrum for safety use. Public safety agencies across the country face difficulty in addressing the problems of congestion, lack of interoperability and the inability to implement new communications technologies. The problems are mainly caused by lack of available channels. Currently our communications system consist of one city wide channel utilized by our Transportation Division. Our Emergency Response Unit utilizes an 800 MHz radio system which can only be used within the city limits, outside the city limits they must switch to a point to point communication frequency. If an emergency arises outside the city limits we are left to rely on the availability of a State Patrol. It should be noted that we transport notorious inmates back and forth to state facilities and hospitals.

Immediate Commission action allocating portions of current UHF television spectrum between channels 60-69 for public safety use could begin to alleviate the problems these agencies face. This was suggested in the digital television Docket 87-

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**268.** This block of spectrum is ideal for public safety use as it is adjacent to frequencies currently used for mobile radio operations by federal, state and local agencies.

The New York City Department of Correction requests that the commission take expeditious action to meet the spectrum needs of public safety agencies nationwide.

Sincerely,



Ronald Galletta  
Chief of Security  
NYC Department of Correction

cc: Michael P. Jacobson, Commissioner  
Bernard Kerik, First Deputy Commissioner  
Eric M. Taylor, Chief of Department