

STATE OF NEBRASKA

EXECUTIVE SUITE
P.O. Box 94848
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4848
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DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



October 11, 1996

RECEIVED

E. Benjamin Nelson
Governor

APR 25 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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

WT Docket No. 96-86

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Public Safety agencies in Nebraska and across the country are in desperate need of additional radio communications channels. The Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee ("PSWAC") in its recently released report concluded that public safety agencies need at least 2.5 MHz of additional spectrum immediately for interoperability, at least 25 MHz more spectrum within the next five (5) years, and an additional 70 MHz of spectrum in the next fifteen (15) years.

Public safety agencies in Nebraska are experiencing co-channel interference problems as they begin to double-up on frequencies. This is especially true in the Omaha and Lincoln area. Most public safety agencies in Nebraska find it difficult if not impossible to obtain interoperability between other agencies, and are unable to implement new communications technologies. The problems we are experiencing are mainly caused by a lack of available radio channels. Because of the above mentioned problems, the State of Nebraska submits this letter in strong support of the PSWAC findings, and urges that the FCC take immediate action to allocate adequate spectrum for public safety use.

As suggested in the digital television Docket 87-278, immediate commission action allocating portions of current UHF television spectrum between channels 60-69 for public safety use could begin to alleviate many of the problems facing public safety agencies. 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 State of Nebraska requests that the Commission take expeditious action to meet the spectrum needs of public safety agencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Nelson".

E. Benjamin Nelson
Governor
State of Nebraska



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

City of Orlando

100 SOUTH HUGHEY AVENUE
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
32801-0913

POLICE
DEPARTMENT
October 16, 1996

TELEPHONE (407) 246-2470
FAX (407) 246-2732

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APR 25 1997

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

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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

WT Docket No. 96-86

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 an additional 70 MHz over the next fifteen (15) years.

The Orlando Police Department 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 problems of congestion, lack of interoperability, and the inability to implement new communications technologies. The problems are mainly caused by a lack of available radio channels. We have just constructed a ten million dollar radio system and we will be unable to expand this system in the future, due to lack of available frequencies.

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 87-276. 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 Orlando Police Department requests that the commission take expeditious action to meet the spectrum needs of public safety agencies nationwide.

Sincerely,

William E. Kennedy, Jr.
Chief of Police

fb



DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT
SERVICES

4050 Esplanade Way • Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0950

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LAWTON CHILES, GOVERNOR

WILLIAM H. LINDNER, SECRETARY

October 18, 1996

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

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APR 25 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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

WT Docket 96-86

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Public Safety agencies throughout the country are in desperate need of additional radio communications channels. Within Florida, new radio systems can no longer be constructed and existing systems can no longer be expanded in many areas of the state. The completion of our own statewide 800 MHz digital trunked radio system for state law enforcement agencies in Florida is now in jeopardy due to the proposed auction of General Category channels. Local agencies within Florida also face difficulties due to channel congestion, lack of interoperability, and the inability to implement new communications systems due to the unavailability of radio 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 25 MHz of additional spectrum immediately for interoperability, at least 25 MHz more within five years, and an additional 70 MHz over the next fifteen years.

On behalf of the State of Florida and its agencies, we submit this letter in strong support of the PSWAC findings, and urge the FCC to take immediate action to allocate new spectrum for public safety use. In particular, we believe that immediate Commission action allocating portions of the current UHF television spectrum between channels 60-69 for public safety use would begin to alleviate the problems that our agencies face. This was suggested in the digital television Docket 87-268. This block of spectrum is considered most suitable for public safety use because it is adjacent to the 800 MHz frequencies already in use by public safety agencies.

Florida's 800 MHz digital trunked radio system, which has been under construction for over five years, will be one of the largest, most technically advanced and most complex radio system ever implemented for a single group of public safety agencies. The system will serve over 10,000 users

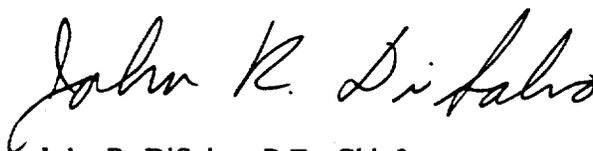


Recycled Paper

and has a projected cost of nearly 350 million dollars. The system uses 20 channels from the General Category Pool¹ and 30 from the National Public Safety Plan². The Commission's freeze Order (DA-95-2119) and proposed auction of the General Category channels jeopardizes the remaining three phases of our five-phased construction schedule by not allowing us to modify existing licenses or acquire the additional licenses needed to complete the project. At present there are no alternative channels we can use to complete the system as planned. We have requested a waiver of the freeze Order, but have had no response to date from the Commission. At the same time, we are under pressure from the licensing staff in Gettysburg to maintain our construction schedule in order to maintain the licenses we have. Clearly we cannot continue in these opposing directions indefinitely; either the necessary authorizations must be granted, or we will be forced to abandon the remaining portions of the system into which have gone over 10 years of effort.

We commend PSWAC and the Commission for its very comprehensive efforts in the current proceeding. We emphasize that from the point of view of our agencies, the central and immediate issue is the need for additional spectrum. The many other issues raised by PSWAC and the Commission are of immense importance to the future of communications for public safety. However in Florida, one of the nation's fastest growing states, we must have additional spectrum immediately to accomplish even the most basic functions of insuring the public safety.

Sincerely,



John R. DiSalvo, P.E., Chief
Bureau of Communications Engineering

JRD:RBF:96-86.wpd

cc: Governor Lawton Chiles
Senator Bob Graham
Senator Connie Mack
APCO Headquarters
Joint Task Force Board of Directors
Glenn Mayne
Marilyn Ward

¹ 806-821/851-866 MHz bands

² 821-824/866-869 MHz bands

960168

Howard E. Steinberg
Chairman



John R. Platt
Executive Director

Nancy E. Carey
Board Member

William C. Warren III
Board Member

New York State Thruway Authority **RECEIVED**
Phone (518) 436-2900
TOLL FREE 1-800-253-6244
Fax (518) 471-5058

200 Southern Boulevard
Post Office Box 189
Albany, New York 12201-0189

APR 25 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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October 17, 1996

OCT 21 11 17 AM '96

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

WT Docket No. 96-86

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 an additional 70 MHz over the next fifteen (15) years.

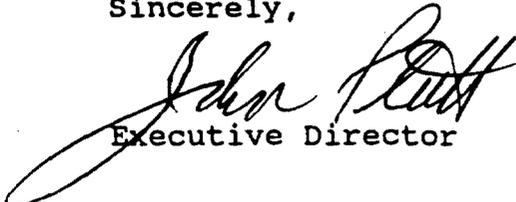
The New York State Thruway Authority submits this letter in strong support of the PSWAC findings, and urges that the FCC take immediate action to allocate spectrum for safety use. Public safety agencies across the country face difficulty in addressing problems of congestion, lack of interoperability and the inability to implement new communications technologies. The problems are mainly caused by a lack of available radio channels. The Authority is struggling with serious radio congestion problems which are difficult to resolve due to a lack of available channels. The availability issue is also hampering our attempts to deploy new spectrum technologies such as mobile data communications and high speed data. A failure to allocate spectrum may eventually prevent public safety communications systems from meeting even basic operational and public safety needs.



Immediate Commission action allocating portions of current UHF television spectrum between channels 60-69 for public safety use could begin to alleviate the problems public safety agencies face. This was suggested in the digital television Docket 87-278. 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.

On behalf of the New York State Thruway Authority, I request that the commission take expeditious action to meet the spectrum needs of public safety agencies nationwide.

Sincerely,


Executive Director

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APR 25 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RESOLUTION

"pretium in non vile"

Whereas

concerns about safety continue to be a prevailing interest of the American public; and

WHEREAS, public safety is the primary responsibility of local governments; and

WHEREAS, the delivery of these crucial services is becoming more technical and requires radio spectrum to be efficient; and

WHEREAS, there is a nationwide shortage of radio frequencies for public safety; and

WHEREAS, the allocation of spectrum is fundamental to the ability of emergency response agencies to communicate together to ensure a timely response when lives are at stake, and changes in allocations can force cities to spend hundreds of millions of dollars for the purchase of equipment compatible with different bands of the spectrum; and

WHEREAS, there is a nationwide shortage of radio frequencies for public safety; and

WHEREAS, the allocation of spectrum is fundamental to the ability of emergency response agencies to communicate together to ensure a timely response when lives are at stake, and changes in allocations can force cities to spend hundreds of millions of dollars for the purchase of equipment compatible with different bands of the spectrum; and

WHEREAS, broadcast spectrum is critical to cities' efforts to ensure and protect public safety communications, and therefore, their spectrum allocations needs will also increase; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee, established by Congress in 1993 and charged to design a plan for public safety telecommunications needs through the year 2010, has specifically requested that the federal government defer taking action which might affect frequencies until its report is issued in September of 1996;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF ORLANDO, urges the President and Congress to take no further action on spectrum allocation until current and future public safety spectrum needs are fully considered and protected; and

FURTHER, that a copy of this Resolution be presented to President Clinton and the Florida Delegation.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I hereunto have set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Orlando to be affixed this 10th day of September, 1996.


Glenda E. Hood
Glenda E. Hood, Mayor



OFFICE OF
THE FIRE COMMISSIONER
THOMAS J. LORIO, JR.

CITY OF YONKERS

FIRE DEPARTMENT

5-7 NEW SCHOOL STREET

YONKERS, NEW YORK 10701

(914) 377-7500

WTB
Bob McNamara



FAX # 377-7560

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

October 17, 1996

OCT 21 11 17 AM '96

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

Re: WT docket No. 96-86
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 PCC and NTIA recently released its "Final Report" which concludes that public safety agencies need at least 25 MHz of additional spectrum right now for interoperability at least 2.5 MHz within five (5) years and an additional 70 Mhz over the next fifteen (15) years.

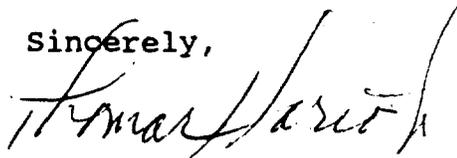
The Yonkers Fire Department submits this letter in strong support of the PSWAC findings and urges that the FCC take immediate action to allocate spectrum for safety use. Public Safety agencies across the country face difficulty in addressing problems of congestion, lack of interoperability and the inability to implement new communications technologies. The problems are mainly caused by a lack of available radio channels. Yonkers, being so close to New York City has always had a problem when looking for new frequencies.

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 87-278. 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 Yonkers Fire Department requests that the Commission take expeditious action to meet the spectrum needs of public safety agencies nationwide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas J. Lorio, Jr.", written in dark ink.

Thomas J. Lorio, Jr.
Fire Commissioner

TJL:kmc
c.c. Lt. Chapeton

STATE OF NEBRASKA

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P.O. Box 94848
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4848
Phone (402) 471-2244

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Federal Communications Commission
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October 11, 1996



E. Benjamin Nelson
Governor

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

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

RE: Advanced Television Systems and Their Impact Upon
the Existing Television Broadcast Service

MM Docket No. 87-268

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The State of Nebraska wishes to express its strong support for Federal Communications Commission action to reallocate the current UHF broadcast television channels 60-69, and make a portion of that spectrum available for public safety use.

There is currently an urgent need in many parts of the country, including portions of Nebraska, for additional public safety radio channels. The Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee ("PSWAC") found that public safety agencies need at least 2.5 MHz of additional spectrum right now to meet its needs. The PSWAC report also found that at least 25 MHz of radio spectrum will be needed within five (5) years, and an additional 70 MHz within the next fifteen (15) years.

In Nebraska our public safety communities are experiencing the same problem as the rest of the country. Channel congestion, lack of interoperability, and the inability to implement new technology are just some of our problems. For these reasons, the State of Nebraska agrees with the PSWAC findings and recommendations. Only immediate FCC action in making new spectrum available can help to alleviate the problems faced by the State of Nebraska, and many other public safety agencies around the nation.

The spectrum at issue is ideal for public safety use. The block of UHF channels between 60 and 69 is adjacent to the 800 MHz mobile radio frequencies which are currently heavily used by public safety agencies.

The State of Nebraska urges the Commission to act expeditiously and favorably in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ben Nelson".

E. Benjamin Nelson
Governor
State of Nebraska

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COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

APR 25 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary



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ROBERT J. GAFFNEY
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

PETER F. COSGROVE
POLICE COMMISSIONER

POLICE DEPARTMENT

October 18, 1996

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

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Public safety and other agencies across the country in major metropolitan areas are in desperate need of additional radio communication channels. The Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee (PSWAC), jointly sponsored by the FCC and NTIA, recently released its "final report". This report 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 an additional 70 MHz over the next fifteen (15) years.

The Suffolk County Police Department submits this letter in strong support of the PSWAC findings, and urges that the FCC take immediate action to allocate spectrum for public safety use. Public safety agencies across the country face difficulty in addressing communication problems due to the congestion in major metropolitan areas such as New York City, Los Angeles, Austin, Chicago and Boston. The lack of interoperability, and the inability to implement new communication technologies, is a constant concern and set back. These problems are mainly caused by a lack of available radio channels.

Suffolk County Police have fortunately adopted 800 MHz trunked radio technology for voice communications. However, we are now seeking spectrum to implement mobile data technology for approximately 900 subscriber units. We hope to be able to do this in the UHF band and create a police network west into New York City.

Immediate Commission action, allocating portions of current UHF television spectrum between Channels 60-69 for public safety use, would begin to alleviate the problem most agencies face. This was suggested in the Digital Television Docket 87-268. 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 government agencies. Suffolk County Police is interested in spectrum that will permit an interoperability with the Nassau County Police, New York City Police and the many other local law enforcement agencies adjacent to Suffolk County, New York.

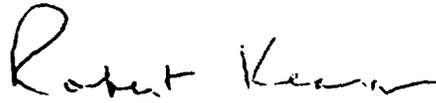
It is certainly our concern and desire that the Commission take swift action to meet the spectrum needs of public safety agencies throughout the nation.

Sincerely,



Peter F. Cosgrove
Police Commissioner

PFC:VRS:ec



Robert Kearon
Deputy Commissioner