

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of)
)
Amendment of the Commission's Rules to) WT Docket No. 98-20
Facilitate the Development and Use of the)
Universal Licensing System in the)
Wireless Telecommunications Services)

To: The Commission

REPLY COMMENTS OF APCO

The Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International, Inc. ("APCO") hereby submits the following brief reply to comments filed in response to the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 98-25 (released March 18, 1998), 63 Fed. Reg. 16938 (April 7, 1998), in the above-captioned matter.

In addition to the issues raised by APCO in its initial comments, several parties also raised concerns regarding the Commission's proposal to require applicants to use their Taxpayer Identification Numbers ("TIN") as a means of distinguishing between licensees. While well-intentioned, the Commission's proposal overlooks the fact that some state and local government license holders do not have a separate TIN. For example, licenses are often held by a local government authority or special district (such as a special fire district, EMS authority, transit district, etc.) which is self-governed and entirely autonomous, except as to financial management.¹ In those cases, the relevant county government will often handle all of the financial affairs (including payroll) for

¹ In contrast, a typical police department or fire department will be subject to the direct control of the relevant state, county or city. In those cases, licenses are usually issued to the state, county or city, and not to the department using the license on a daily basis.

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government authorities and special districts within its borders. The authority or special district may set a tax rate, but the collection and distribution of those funds is handled by the county government. As a result, such special districts and authorities often do not have a separate TIN. The only available TIN is that of the relevant county. However, that same TIN will also be used by the county itself and by many other authorities and special districts, each of which may hold separate FCC licenses.

Therefore, APCO suggests that the Commission not limit itself to taxpayer identification numbers alone, as that will cause confusion and lead to inaccurate license databases. Rather, the Commission should either adopt a separate number for each licensee apart from its TIN, or (as suggested by AASHTO) simply add several digits to the TIN to allow for additional number variations among districts or agencies that use the same TIN for other purposes.

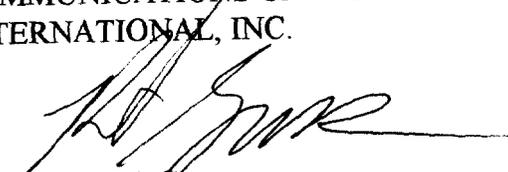
CONCLUSION

APCO urges the Commission to move forward with its Universal Licensing System and new Form 601, subject to the modifications described above and in its initial comments.

Respectfully submitted,

**ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC-SAFETY
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICIALS-
INTERNATIONAL, INC.**

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