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Federal Bureau of Investigation

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

2635 Century Pkwy NE, Suite. 400
Atlanta, Georgia 30345
February 24, 1992

MAIL BRANCH

MAR 5 1992

Ms. Donna R. Searcy
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. Street, N.W., Room 222
Washington, D.C. 20036

Reference: In the matter of a request by ProNet Inc. for grant
of a Pioneer's Preference for its Electronic
Tracking Service

File # PP-23, RM-7784

Dear Ms. Searcy:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Atlanta,
Violent Crimes Major Offender Squad, hereby submits its Comments
in support of the above referenced Request for a Pioneer's
Preference filed by ProNet Incorporated.

The Violent Crimes Major Offender Squad in the Atlanta
Office of the FBI represents the squad which deals primarily with
violations of the Federal Bank Robbery Statute. I am the
supervisor of this squad and began a relationship with ProNet,
Incorporated, in early 1991 when Mike E. Markwood of ProNet,
Incorporated, gave a demonstration presentation of the ProNet
Tracking System and its effects on the bank robbery problem.
Subsequent to this demonstration, I contacted my contemporaries,
that is, other FBI supervisors in charge of bank robbery squads
in several other cities, and was informed by them that the
installation of the ProNet Tracking System resulted in a drastic
reduction of bank robbery violations in the territories in which
the system was installed. In many cases bank robberies were cut
in half which is an astounding accomplishment. Efforts are
currently on the way with my full support for ProNet to sell to
the banking community in the Atlanta, Georgia, area. With this
tracking system, it will enable the quick apprehension of
violators of the Bank Robbery Statute.

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I am familiar with ProNet's request in this petition for Rulemaking to provide permanent spectrum in the 216-220 MHz band for ETS, and to authorize ETS to operate under the Business Radio Service rules and the FBI in Atlanta, Georgia is fully in support of this request. The FBI in Atlanta, Georgia, supports the grant of a Pioneer Preference (and Rulemaking) to ProNet because:

a. This law enforcement tool has proven to be very successful in removing violent criminals (those engaged in bank robbery activities) from the streets.

b. Currently the Atlanta Office of the FBI has no data available inasmuch as the ProNet system has not been installed in the Atlanta area as of this writing; however, in conversation with my contemporaries in Phoenix, San Francisco, and other cities, it is obvious that this system is instrumental in a vast increase of apprehension and conviction rates for those individuals engaged in bank robbery activities.

c. Electronic Tracking System as described by Mike Markwood and installed in other cities, is a unique and innovative technology that does not currently exist. Currently the method of attempting to track bank robbers subsequent to the bank robbery is a tear gas and dye pack that explodes some few seconds after it is removed from the bank property. This is a valuable tool; however, it loses its effectiveness within fifteen to twenty seconds, therefore, if a policeman is not within visual sight of the explosion, it does little or no good, other than to dye the money which is then subsequently attempted to be traced. The attempts to trace dyed money, although sometimes successful, are very often fruitless due to the many hands the money may have passed through prior to the time it is returned or reported to the FBI.

d. Finally, I would like to point out that bank robberies in the Atlanta, Georgia, area have more than doubled within the past year. Within the past year we have only been utilizing the technology of a dye pack system which has obviously have proven effective. The proper method to solve multiple bank robberies by the same individual is through the Electronic

Tracking System. It is felt that an individual who currently commits between five and fifteen robberies would be apprehended shortly after the first robbery, thus reducing greatly the number of offenses in the potential for injury to innocent individuals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "G. Patrick Johnson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

G. PATRICK JOHNSON
Supervisor, Violent Crimes
Major Offender Squad
Atlanta, Georgia