



CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**  
BUREAU OF POLICE

**ORIGINAL FILE**

**J.E. BUD CLARK, MAYOR**  
Tom Potter, Chief of Police  
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Portland, OR 97204

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FCC MAIL BRANCH

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

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, Incorporated for a grant of a Pioneer's Preference for its electronic tracking service.

File #PP-23, RM-7784

Dear Ms. Searcy:

The Portland Police Bureau hereby submits its comments in support of the above referenced request for a Pioneer's Preference filed by ProNet, Incorporated.

1. The Portland Police Bureau is dedicated to working with the citizens and business community to make Portland, Oregon a safe and livable city. Speaking for the needs and concerns of the Portland area and indirectly for the needs of law enforcement nationwide, we need the technology tools this service provides.
2. The Portland Police Bureau became involved with ProNet, Incorporated and the electronic tracking system (ETS) in July, 1990. Since that time, we have experienced a notable reduction in the number of bank robberies, recovered in excess of \$77,600 in stolen money, and arrested twenty-eight (28) suspects for bank robbery charges.
3. The Portland Police Bureau is familiar with ProNet's request and its petition for rule making 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 we fully support this request within the rules and regulations of the FCC.

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4. The Portland Police Bureau supports the grant of a Pioneer's Preference (and rule making) to ProNet because:
  - a. This vital law enforcement monitoring and tracking service enables us to enhance the safety of life and property through the expanded use of radio communications for crime prevention and control. We have improved our working relationship with the business community and other law enforcement agencies through use of the ETS, thereby furthering our Portland Police Bureau goal of Community Policing.
  - b. We have experienced a large increase in the number of immediate arrests which enabled us to recover substantial sums of stolen money, disguises, weapons, and other evidence to be used for prosecution in court. Positive identifications by victims and witnesses have been made easier and we are finding most of the arrested suspects are pleading guilty with the strong cases we are able to provide the U.S. Attorney.
  - c. By using ETS as a silent security system, we are able to make arrests outside of banks on our terms, greatly reducing possible hostage situations or chances of injury or death to victims or witnesses inside a business. The ETS system is unique as it can be passed from victim to suspect without alerting anyone except law enforcement that the robbery has occurred.
  - d. Continued operation under temporary developmental/experimental frequencies could inhibit the financial resources being applied to research and improvement of the system causing rate increases which would make this a very effective law enforcement tool unavailable to many areas.

Very truly yours,

*Tom Potter*  
TOM POTTER  
Chief

TJP/WSW/sb

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