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April 20, 2001



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Office of Emergency
Communications (9-1-1/3-1-1)

Gregory B. Bishop
Executive Director

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The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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RE: WT Docket No. 00-32

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing you on behalf of the City of Chicago's Office of Emergency Communications to express our concern about the FCC's intension to auction 50 MHz of spectrum in the 4940-4990 MHz (4.9 GHz) band, rather than allocating this critically needed spectrum to public safety for new broadband public safety applications.

The Office of Emergency Communications manages and operates the Public Safety Communications Systems for the Chicago Police and Fire Departments. These departments serve the emergency response needs of nearly 3 million residents, responding to over 4.5 million calls for service every year. Public Safety radio spectrum is vital to the response capabilities of these departments. Voice and data radio communications are used extensively to link our officers with our communication center and our data intensive dispatch systems. Applications such as automatic vehicle location to select the closest available units, database inquiry and automatic case reporting for officers in the field, access to web based applications including imaging, mapping, building floor plans, and hazard information, as well as a variety of live video applications are all critical to officer safety and field operations.

Back in 1996, the public safety community identified the need for 97.5 MHz of additional spectrum to meet our communications needs over the next ten years. Of this amount, the greatest amount of spectrum will be for advanced wideband and broadband technologies, custom tailored for Public Safety, that will require a significant amount of additional wide bandwidth.

Solutions such as personal and vehicular area networks can wirelessly integrate a variety of existing and future devices to provide a safer environment for our officers, firefighters, and paramedics. These include imaging, video cameras and viewers, mobile data terminals and all their peripheral devices, palmtops, wireless long range headsets, microphones, earpieces and voice recognition to allow complete hands free operation. Very large data and image files can be

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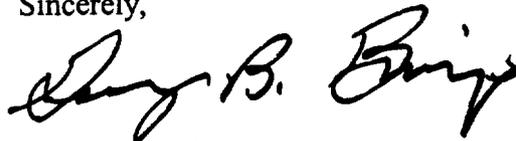


rapidly and wirelessly transferred within Wireless Local Area Networks (WLAN), enabling images, video clips, maps, and building floor plans to be downloaded into police and fire mobile computers operating at the scene of emergencies. This same technology will also allow wireless uploads of videos, images and reports from the police and fire vehicles to other mobile vehicles, and to the command center and departmental databases. WLAN technology will also enable command centers and field command posts to employ full motion video for remote controlled robotics in terrorist, hazardous material, and other highly dangerous operations, and the monitoring of police and firefighting operations in high risk situations to allow on scene decision making and assistance based on video transmissions. This technology would allow real time transmission of video and imagery from surveillance helicopters and command vans to command centers.

We must have dedicated spectrum and systems that assure the safety of our personnel via immediate priority access, uninterrupted transmissions, security and guaranteed coverage and reliability. The proximity of the unlicensed 5 GHz spectrum to the proposed public safety 4.9 GHz allocation would allow us to leverage commercially developed broadband technologies and yet have the dedicated, reliable, secure and enhanced featured broadband solutions that we require.

The City of Chicago Office of Emergency Communications urges you and the Commission to recognize our broadband spectrum needs and allocate this much needed 4.9 GHz band to the public safety community. Obtaining this spectrum is a critical step for public safety agencies such as ours to access these new advanced broadband solutions for our mission critical applications.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory B. Bishop". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Gregory B. Bishop
Executive Director

cc: Office of the Secretary
Ms. Magalie Roman Sallas
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554