EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

**Geauga County Department of Emergency Services**

Geauga County Department of Emergency Services
12518 Merritt Road
Chardon, Ohio 44024

440-285-9200
440-285-7016 Fax - Operations
440-286-1023 Fax - Administrative

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APR 26 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 26, 2001

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

98-237

RE: WT Docket No. 00-32

2001 APR 20 P 2:00

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing you on behalf of the Geauga County Department of Emergency Services to express our concern about the FCC's intention 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 Geauga County Department of Emergency Services oversees the telecommunications needs and provides a telecommunications backbone for over 55 public safety agencies in our county of 92,000 citizens, which is located just East of the Cleveland, Ohio metropolitan area.

Back in 1996, the public safety community identified the need for 95 MHz of additional spectrum to meet our communications needs over the next ten years. Of this amount, the greatest need will be for advanced wideband and broadband technologies. To date, the FCC has allocated 24 MHz to public safety users in the new 746 MHz band. There are new emerging broadband technologies and applications appearing on the horizon that will require significantly wider bandwidths than this allocation.

Several of our representative public safety organizations, including APCO, IACP, and Major Cities Chiefs, have recently urged the FCC to allocate 50 MHz at 4.9 GHz for broadband public safety applications.

We fully support the above public safety organizations and we also urge 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:

Michael J Shimek, Telecommunications Manager

Received

City of Champaign

Police Department

82 E. University Avenue
Champaign, IL 61820



March 20, 2001

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



RE: WT Docket No. 00-32

98-237

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing you on behalf of the City of Champaign, Illinois Police Department to express our concern about the FCC's intention 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 Champaign Police Department has a sworn strength of 118 officers and a staff of 35 civilian personnel and serves a community of 65,000 citizens, 35,000 University of Illinois students and 10,000 community college students.

Back in 1996, the public safety community identified the need for 95 MHz of additional spectrum to meet our communications needs over the next ten years. Of this amount, the greatest need will be for advanced wideband and broadband technologies. To date, the FCC has allocated 24 MHz to public safety users in the new 746 MHz band. There are new emerging broadband technologies and applications appearing on the horizon that will require significantly wider bandwidths than this allocation.

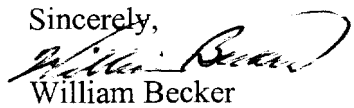
Solutions such as personal and vehicular area networks can wirelessly integrate a variety of existing and future devices to provide a safer environment for our officers. These include image and video cameras and viewers, mobile data terminals and all their peripheral devices, palmtops, and wireless long-range headsets, microphones, earpieces and voice recognition to allow complete hands free operation. Very large data and image files can be rapidly and wirelessly transferred within Wireless Local Area Networks (WLAN), enabling images/fingerprints of wanted or missing persons, video clips of robberies, maps and layouts to be downloaded into police vehicle mobile computers as they leave the

station. This same technology will also allow wireless uploads of videos, images and reports from the police vehicle to the police station.

Several of our representative public safety organizations, including APCO, IACP, NTOA, and Major City Chiefs, have recently urged the FCC to allocate 50 MHz at 4.9 GHz for broadband public safety applications.

We fully support the above public safety organizations and we also urge 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,



William Becker
Chief of Police

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

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APR 26 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

2001 APR 20 A 11:59

March 22, 2001

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

RE: WT Docket No. 00-32

98-239

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing on behalf of the Elk Grove Village Fire Department to express our concern over the FCC's intention to auction 50 MHz of spectrum in the 4940-4990 MHz (4.9 GHz) band rather than allocating it for public safety applications.

The Elk Grove Village Fire Department is a progressive and innovative full-service fire department operating within the Chicago metropolitan area that will likely adopt emerging broadband technologies in delivering our fire, rescue and emergency medical services to our community. As you may know, wireless use in our area is well established and growing significantly to keeping up with both the population and demand for wireless services. This growth is so large that unless consideration is given to the future communications needs of public safety responders we will not be allowed to take advantage of technological advances that will improve responder safety as well as better serve the public.

Even back in 1996, the public safety community identified the need for 95 MHz of additional spectrum to meet our communications needs over the next ten years and our greatest need is in advanced wideband and broadband technologies. To date, the FCC has allocated 24 MHz to public safety users in the new 746 MHz band but the emerging broadband technologies and applications will require significantly wider bandwidths.

Examples of these technologies that will be available are personal area networks (PAN) that wirelessly integrate tools into the firefighter's suit and helmet such as biometric and environmental sensors, 3D location, video and thermal imaging cameras, wireless microphones and ear pieces, and voice recognition to allow hands and wire-free communications. Related technologies include high-speed wireless data links that transmit this vital firefighter information to command centers such as location, vital signs and helping them navigate through smoke-filled burning buildings.

Likewise, very large data and image files can be rapidly and wirelessly transferred within Wireless Local Area Networks (WLAN), enabling graphics such as maps, images and building blueprints to be downloaded into fire vehicle mobile computers as they leave the firehouse. WLAN technology will also enable fire ground command centers to employ full motion video for remote controlled robotics in intense fires, hazardous material and bomb disposal, and dangerous search and rescue operations. This technology would allow real time transmission of video and imagery from aircraft to fire ground commanders.

Although unlicensed consumer oriented broadband technologies are on the horizon in the nearby 5 GHz band, public safety agencies cannot rely on unlicensed spectrum for our mission critical applications. It is important that a dedicated spectrum and systems are available to assure the safety of our personnel with immediate priority access, uninterrupted transmissions, and guaranteed coverage and reliability. The proximity of this unlicensed band to the proposed public safety 4.9 GHz allocation allows us to leverage such standards based broadband technologies and yet have the dedicated, reliable, secure and enhanced featured broadband solutions that we require for our mission critical applications.

The Elk Grove Village Fire Department urges you and the Commission to recognize our broadband spectrum needs and allocate this much needed 4.9GHz 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,

Michael W. Lackman

Michael W. Lackman
Assistant Chief

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

City of EDMOND

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

April 11, 2001

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APR 26 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

RE: WT Docket No. 00-32 98-237

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing on behalf of the City of Edmond's Central Communications Department, who provides Fire and Police communications services, to express our concern about the FCC's intention 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 City of Edmond serves approximately 98 square miles and a population of nearly 70,000 citizens. Our emergency services, totaling 180 full-time personnel plus communications staff, additionally serve several surrounding jurisdictions through mutual aid and automatic aid agreements. Our ability to communicate over a widespread area, on a variety of frequencies is critical, particularly when dealing with life-threatening situations. Several of these communities utilize volunteer public safety agencies, which place further limitations on available funding and technology use.

In 1996, the public safety community identified the need for 95 MHz of additional spectrum to meet our communications needs over the next ten years. Of this amount, the greatest need will be for advanced wideband and broadband technologies. To date, the FCC has allocated 24 MHz to public safety users in the new 746 MHz band. There are new emerging broadband technologies and applications appearing on the horizon that will require significantly wider bandwidths if public safety is to take full advantage of available technology for the provision of emergency services.

As a combined communications service, it is evident that both law enforcement and fire/rescue organizations can benefit from the use of advanced technology. These enhancements will benefit not only the citizens we serve, but will also provide increased officer/firefighter safety and operational efficiency.

These enhancements include image and video cameras and viewers; mobile data terminals with their peripheral devices, palmtops, and wireless long range headsets, microphones, earpieces and voice recognition to allow complete hands free operation. Very large data and image files can be rapidly and wirelessly transferred within Wireless Local Area Networks (WLAN), enabling images/fingerprints of wanted or missing persons, video clips of robberies, maps and layouts to be downloaded into police vehicle or fire apparatus mobile computers. This same technology will also allow wireless uploads of videos, images and reports from field units to the command post, command center, or Emergency Operations Center (EOC). WLAN technology will also enable the use of full motion video for remote controlled robotics in terrorist, hazardous materials, and other highly dangerous operations, and monitoring of officers, suspects or crews in high risk situations and to allow on scene decision making and assistance based on video transmissions.

Although unlicensed consumer oriented broadband technologies are on the horizon in the nearby 5 GHz band, public safety agencies cannot rely on unlicensed spectrum for our mission critical, often life-threatening applications. We must have dedicated spectrum and systems that assure the safety of our personnel via immediate priority access, uninterrupted transmissions, and guaranteed coverage and reliability. The proximity of this unlicensed band to the proposed public safety 4.9 GHz allocation allows us to leverage such standards based broadband technologies and yet have the dedicated, reliable, secure and enhanced featured broadband solutions that we require for our mission critical applications.

The City of Edmond's Central Communications and Emergency Management Department 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 and often life-threatening applications.

Respectfully,

David K. Barnes, Director
Central Communications
Emergency Management

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

**City of Minneapolis**

**Police Department**
Robert K. Olson
Chief of Police

350 South 5th Street - Room 130
Minneapolis MN 55415-1389

Office (612) 673-2853



April 12, 2001



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

Dear Mr. Chairman:

RE: WT Docket No. 00-32 98-237

I am writing you on behalf of the City of Minneapolis Police Department to express our concern about the FCC's intention 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 City of Minneapolis Police Department is the largest law enforcement agency in Minnesota and serves approximately 370,000 citizens. The Minneapolis Police Department works closely with the St. Paul Police Department and the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office. Previously our agencies and other metropolitan law enforcement agencies have been unable to communicate with each other via radio. With the increase in multi-agency responses to critical incidence, it is imperative that we as an agency and individual officers are able to communicate with one another. Our ability to enhance our communication is dependent on the 4.9 GHz band.

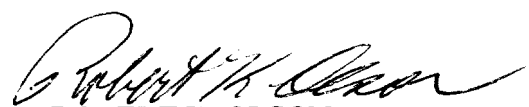
Back in 1996, the public safety community identified the need for 97.5 MHz of additional spectrum to meet our communications needs over the next ten years. Of this amount, the greatest amount of spectrum will be for advanced wide band and broadband technologies. To date, the FCC has allocated only 24 MHz of narrow band spectrum to public safety users in the new 746 MHz band. There are new emerging broadband technologies custom tailored for Public Safety, appearing on the horizon that will require significantly wider bandwidths.

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. These include image and video cameras and viewers, mobile data terminals and all their peripheral devices, palmtops, wireless long range headsets, microphones, ear pieces and voice recognition to allow complete hands free operation. Very large data and image files can be rapidly and wirelessly transferred within Wireless Local Area Networks (WLAN), enabling images/fingerprints of wanted or missing persons, video clips of robberies, maps and layouts to be downloaded into police vehicle mobile computers as they leave the precinct. This same technology will also allow wireless uploads of video images and reports from the police vehicle to the command center. WLAN technology will also enable command centers to employ full motion video for remote controlled robotics in terrorist and other highly dangerous operations, and monitoring of officers or suspects in officer assistance and 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 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 Minneapolis Police Department 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,



ROBERT K. OLSON
Chief of Police
Minneapolis Police Department

RKO:cjs

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

# CITY OF SEMINOLE

*Achieving Service Through Dedication*

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

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APR 26 2001

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

April 9, 2001

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

98-237

RE: WT Docket No. 00-32

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing you on behalf of the City of Seminole Fire Rescue Department to express our concern about the FCC's intention 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 City of Seminole covers a 25 square mile area of Pinellas County Florida and serves a population of 80,000 people. Our department currently has 93 employees and operates out of four fire stations, responding to over 10,000 calls each year.

Back in 1996, the public safety community identified the need for 95 MHz of additional spectrum to meet our communications needs over the next ten years. Of this amount, the greatest need will be for advanced wideband and broadband technologies. To date, the FCC has allocated 24 MHz to public safety users in the new 746 MHz band. There are new emerging broadband technologies and applications appearing on the horizon that will require significantly wider bandwidths than this allocation.

Several of our representative public safety organizations, including APCO, IACP, and major Cities' Chiefs, have recently urged the FCC to allocate 50 MHz at 4.9 GHz for broadband public safety applications.

We fully support the above public safety organizations and we also urge 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,

Daniel H. Graves

Daniel H. Graves, Fire Chief

Cc: Office of the Secretary, Ms. Magalie Roman Sallas
Pam Montanari, Pinellas County Radio Systems Manager

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List A B C D E

11195 70th AVE N • SEMINOLE, FL 33772-6300 • TEL (727) 393-8711 • FAX (727) 392-3656