



CITY OF WACO

Office of the Mayor
Linda Ethridge
Post Office Box 2570
Waco, Texas 76702-2570
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March 30, 2001

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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. Powell:

I am writing you on behalf of the City of Waco, Texas Police and Fire Departments 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.

2001 APR 20 11:50 AM

The City of Waco Police Department currently has 215 sworn officers, and the City of Waco Fire Department currently has 179 sworn officers, all serving a population of 113,792 citizens.

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 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 yours,

Linda Ethridge
Mayor

Mayor,

I am requesting you to provide input to the FCC on the 4.9 GHz Spectrum before their rule making, currently targeted for May 2001. I realize that you may not be aware of this spectrum or what it could provide for us in the future, so included is a brief background, current situation, and some future applications for these frequencies in Public Safety operations. It is important that we have our input heard by the FCC as soon as possible.

Background

In 1995, The FCC requested a study to the current and future spectrum requirements for Public Safety through 2010. PSWAC (Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee) conducted the study and concluded that public safety requires an additional allocation of 95 MHz of spectrum to meet their needs, of which 25 MHz is needed by the end of 2001 to support the growing needs of voice and data communications. The greatest need in the future years will be spectrum allocations to accommodate advanced wideband and broadband technologies. The FCC seems to be dismissing public safety's needs.

Current Situation

There is currently no spectrum allocated to allow Public Safety users to implement any of the future broadband technology. The FCC has already issued notices of the proposed auction of 50 MHz of spectrum in the 4.9 GHz band. The FCC feels that due to existing allocations in other bands, it is not necessary for Public Safety to receive allocations in this band. Simply, if Public Safety agencies do not address these issues to the FCC now, Public Safety could not implement these new technologies in the future.

4.9 GHz Applications

This frequency band offers a variety of opportunities to implement broadband technologies such as:

- On-Scene operations for both fire and Police
- Access to complete building plans on scene
- Full duplex communications between team members,
- Video transfer capabilities between officer and laptop
- Hands-free wireless headset operations
- Other local area operations

Thanks



Larry Groth



City Manager's Office
Post Office Box 2570
Waco, Texas 76702-2570

100-900-511

RECEIVED

APR 5 - 2001

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

FCC MAIL ROOM



Chesapeake Fire Department
Fire Prevention Division
304 Albemarle Drive
Chesapeake, Virginia 23322
(757) 382-6566
FAX (757) 382-8313/8228

April 2, 2001

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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

ET 9 8.237
WT 00.32

2001 APR 20 A 11:58

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing you on behalf of the City of Chesapeake Fire 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.

Solutions such as personal area networks (PAN) can wirelessly integrate a variety of lifesaving tools into the firefighter's suit and helmet. These include biometric and environmental sensors, 3D location, video and thermal imaging cameras, wireless microphones and earpieces, and voice recognition to allow complete hands-free and wire-free operation of all communications. High speed wireless data links transmit this vital information to fire ground command center, allowing them to constantly monitor the location and vital signs of all firefighters, and help them navigate through smoke-filled burning buildings. These technologies could provide a critical link for quickly locating disoriented or downed firefighters before fatal injuries are sustained. Very large data 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. 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 Chesapeake Fire 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. K. Hibner, Jr.", written in dark ink.

W. K. Hibner, Jr.
Fire Marshal

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



City of Chesapeake • Chesapeake Fire Department
Fire Marshal Office • 304 Albemarle Drive
Chesapeake, Virginia 23322

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