

FORT WORTH EX PARTE OR LATE FILED
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May 9, 2001

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

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: WT Docket No. 00-32

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As Chief of the Fort Worth Police Department, I wish to express my 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 Fort Worth Police Department currently serves a population of 540,391 citizens. In March 2000, the city experienced a critical situation in communications when a tornado struck the heart of the city at approximately 6:30 in the evening. The amount of radio traffic that was generated in response to the emergency overwhelmed the bandwidths we had available and we experienced temporary failures in the system. In addition, as we are upgrading the systems we are placing in the patrol units, we have new capabilities of sending emergency responders more timely information which could greatly enhance their safety. This information, such as mug photos and mapping, being transmitted electronically requires a wider bandwidth to be effective.

In an effort to be effective in responding to our citizens needs and to assure the safety of our personnel, it is imperative that the public safety providers have immediate, uninterrupted access to radio transmissions.

The Fort Worth Police Department urges you and the Commission to allocate the 4.9 GHz band to the public safety community. Obtaining the spectrum is a critical step for public safety agencies such as ours to access expanded bandwidths and new advanced broadband solutions for our mission critical applications.

Very truly yours,



Ralph Mendoza
Chief of Police

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

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