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W. M. COPPAGE
CHIEF OF POLICE

BERNARD KINCAID
MAYOR

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June 5, 2001

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth St. SW
TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: In the Matter of Reallocation of the 216-220 MHz Government Transfer Band: ET
Docket No. 00-221

Dear Ms. Salas:

This is in reference to the Commission's invitation for public comment on the possibility of allowing new, high-power uses of the band 216-220 MHz and the related notion that the band 216-217 MHz be auctioned.

The Birmingham Police Department currently uses law enforcement tracking equipment in this frequency band. We have been very pleased with the results we have achieved with this technology.

In particular, use of this equipment has made a dramatic contribution to the apprehension and conviction of criminals and to a reduction in crime rates. It has proven invaluable in the rapid recovery of stolen money and property. Furthermore, all the criminals apprehended through use of the tracking equipment were convicted of their crimes and removed from the community. Their subsequent crimes were prevented. And the time and cost investigation were prevented.

The Birmingham Police Department urges that the Commission not allow new, high-power users in the band or an auction of the segment 216-217 MHz. We urge the Commission to preserve the band for interference-free law enforcement communications.

Sincerely,

W.M. Coppage
W.M. Coppage
CHIEF OF POLICE

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