



August 23, 2001

The Honorable Michael Powell  
Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St. SW  
Washington, DC. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Enhanced 911 -CC Docket No. 94-102

Dear Chairman Powell:

Pending before the Commission is a critical matter regarding public safety. It involves the obligation if wireless carriers to provided location information to public safety agencies so that emergency help can be dispatched expeditiously. I urge you to reject efforts to delay implementing the October 1, 2001 commencement of the vital Enhanced 911 (E911) service.

The availability of E911 to wireless callers mean that public safety agencies do not waste precious time to determine where the caller is. It means that emergency assistance can be dispatched faster and individuals needing help have a better chance to survive. The Commission recognized this in 1996 when it established the requirement that location information be available to 911 centers receiving pleas for help from cell phone callers. Since then, the Commission has given wireless carriers an opportunity to plan and implement the necessary changes to make E911 possible and ensuring that this much needed service is available to the American people.

There are those who do not want to meet this obligation. Claims of inadequate or poor testing, expense, or changing technologies, essentially contend that no implementation should take place before all the challenges are met. These views should be rejected. It is more important to commence the rollout of E911, which will not only bring this critical service to the American people, but will require wireless carriers to compete on the basis of who provides the best E911 service.

The Commission has made the decision that wireless phones should provide location information to 911 centers, just as wireline phones do. It established a lengthy period to roll out the service. The time is now to meet this need. Failure to do so will be devastating to those who call 911.

I urge you to reject any delays in implementing E911.

Sincerely,

Michael Lauretano  
President

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