



Norfolk Police Department

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December 4, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: WT 02-55 In the Matter of Improving Public Safety Communications in the
800 MHz Band**

Dear Secretary Dortch,

As a police chief in Massachusetts, I am deeply concerned about the issue of communications failures on police radios due to interference. Whether a police officer is driving to a crime scene or on location, they must be able to connect with their dispatchers and their fellow officers at all times to ensure coordination and safety. In a sense, communication becomes our lifeline when we are operating in the field.

Public safety officials in nine out of the ten Congressional districts in Massachusetts have experienced instances of interference. First responders deserve reliable communications as they put their lives on the line to save others. Please solve the interference problem to ensure the safety of officers throughout the country by providing the public safety community with dependable communications.

The Consensus Plan is the only real solution to this problem. By realigning the spectrum, we will be taking the necessary steps to permanently solving the problem, rather than living with the continual threat of interference as a fact of life. I am urging you to be proactive and solve this problem with a comprehensive solution – the Consensus Plan.

Please support public safety and implement the Consensus Plan immediately. By doing so, you will be protecting the lives of people who have vowed to keep America safe.

Thank you,

Chief Charles H. Stone, Jr.
Norfolk Police Department