

The Support: Growing

The Consensus Plan is **supported by more than 90% of affected licensees in 800 MHz**, including:

- Association of Public Safety Communications Officials-International (APCO International)
- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
- International Association of Fire Chiefs, Inc. (IAFC)
- International Municipal Signal Association
- Major Cities Chiefs Association
- Major County Sheriff's Association
- National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC)
- American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)
- City of Boston, Massachusetts
- Connecticut Department of Public Safety
- National Association of Counties
- National Association of State Foresters
- National Association of Telecommunications Officers & Advisors
- U.S. Conference of Mayors
- Nextel Communications
- Industrial Telecommunications Association
- PCIA, The Wireless Infrastructure Assn.

Growing support:

- A petition of support signed by more than 550 law enforcement representatives from 46 states
- Letters of support submitted to the FCC from more than 60 fire chiefs in 18 states
- More than 30 communities (city and state) and legislators have filed letters in support, including:
 - City of Sacramento, CA
 - Boston Mayor Thomas Menino
 - NYS Police
 - New York State Fire Administrator
 - Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, CA
 - City of Ft. Lauderdale, FL
 - City of Provo, UT
 - City and County of Denver, CO
 - City of Tallahassee, FL
 - City of Madison, WI

PROJECT CONSENSUS

The Problem: Interference

- **Radio interference** at 800 MHz on public safety radios is a dangerous reality for America's first responders
- **Critical problem for first responders** who rely on communications to respond quickly and efficiently.
- Caused by the **intermingling of public safety and commercial channels** and the incompatibility of their spectrum designs.
- Jeopardizes fire, police and other first responders because they can be faced with an **unforeseen inability to communicate** when responding to crisis.
- **A mounting problem:** estimated that public safety agencies will experience interference at more than 350 locations this year – the highest single-year total to date.

The Solution: The Consensus Plan

- **Realigns the current jumbled licensing** of 800 MHz systems into separate, contiguous blocks for public safety and wireless carriers.
- It's the only solution that **is supported by all the major public safety organizations.**
- **Completely and privately funded** – would require **no outside funding** from taxpayers or public safety community.
- Provides public safety with more communications capacity with precious **additional spectrum.**

Project Consensus in the News:

- The problem of radio interference, and in many instances, the Consensus Plan have been covered in a wide variety of outlets, including:
 - The Washington Post
 - RCR Wireless
 - USA Today
 - Communications Daily
 - The Denver Post
 - Wireless Week
 - CQ Homeland Security
 - Telecom Reports
 - The Police Chief
 - Mission Critical
 - Baton Rouge Advocate
 - Telephony

Project Consensus Online:

- 280,000+ Internet users have been to the Projectconsensus.org site in just over 3 months
- Many have shown their support by signing an online petition
- Distributed online Project Consensus newsletters to nearly 1,500 recipients

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROJECT: CONSENSUS

Table of Contents

Arizona

Todd Ryker, resident of Arizona City November 27, 2003

California

Representative John Dolittle November 5, 2003

Orange County Sheriff's Department June 2003

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District August 28, 2003

City of Sacramento August 28, 2003

City of Fremont August 25, 2003

San Francisco Fire Department November 4, 2003

Colorado

City and County of Denver September 17, 2003

Connecticut

Connecticut Dept. of Public Safety Citizens Advisory Bd. September 25, 2003

Greenwich Police Department November 24, 2003

Delaware

Richard Trinicia, resident of Odessa November 20, 2003

Florida

State Senator Alex de la Portilla November 13, 2003

Florida Police Chiefs Association November 18, 2003

Florida Highway Patrol November 24, 2003

City of Tallahassee October 15, 2003

Tallahassee Fire Department October 14, 2003

City of Ft. Lauderdale September 2, 2003

Florida Police Benevolent Association November 25, 2003

Orange County Fire Rescue Department August 11, 2003

Bay County Emergency Services August 13, 2003

Lee County August 25, 2003

Leon County Sheriff's Office October 16, 2003

Florida State University Police Department November 17, 2003

Hollywood Police Department December 2, 2003

Miami City Commissioner J. Sanchez November 24, 2003

Corey Richter, resident of Vero Beach November 25, 2003

PROJECT: CONSENSUS

Estero Fire Rescue	December 17, 2003
Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners	December 4, 2003
Georgia	
Hall County 9-1-1	July 24, 2003
Savannah Bureau of Fire and Emergency Services	October 30, 2003
Bryan Hunter, resident of Pinehurst	October 14, 2003
Illinois	
Village of Woodridge	August 26, 2003
Dixon Fire Department	November 24, 2003
Dennis Litwiler, resident of Aledo	November 26, 2003
Phil Lazzara, resident of Woodridge	November 20, 2003
Harold Damron, resident of Joliet	October 29, 2003
Jim Nachowicz, resident of Libertyville	October 29, 2003
Indiana	
Jessica Merritt, resident of Georgetown	November 8, 2003
Kansas	
Duane Filkins, resident of Lawrence	October 28, 2003
Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs	December 17, 2003
Kentucky	
Louis McClain, resident of Frankfort	October 17, 2003
Louisiana	
Louisiana State Police	December 8, 2003
Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association	October 21, 2003
Denham Springs Police Department	November 18, 2003
Baker Police Department	October 29, 2003
Maryland	
Maryland State Firemen's Association	November 11, 2003
Maryland Fire Chiefs Association	November 3, 2003
Anne Arundel County	July 29, 2003
Richard Woodward, resident of Bel Air	November 4, 2003

PROJECT: CONSENSUS

Massachusetts

Rep. Edward Markey, Ranking Democrat, Telecom Subcomm.	December 18, 2003
Mayor Thomas Menino, Boston	October 6, 2003
MetroFire Radio	November 12, 2003
Greater Boston Police Council, Inc.	October 30, 2003
North Eastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council	October 30, 2003
Metropolitan Law Enforcement Council	October 30, 2003
City of Cambridge Fire Department	November 12, 2003
City of Revere Police Department	November 10, 2003
Somerville Police Department	November 24, 2003
Truro Police Department	December 3, 2003
Worcester Fire Department	November 20, 2003
Medford Fire Department	December 4, 2003
Philip Sortin, resident of Lexington	December 9, 2003
Littleton Police Department	December 16, 2003

Michigan

Representative Mike Rogers	October 22, 2003
----------------------------	------------------

Minnesota

Coon Rapids Fire Department	November 12, 2003
Richfield Fire Department, Minneapolis	December 4, 2003

Mississippi

Jones County Emergency Operations Center	August 11, 2003
Grenada Fire Department	December 4, 2003
Tupelo Fire Department	November 25, 2003
Columbus Fire Department	October 14, 2003

Missouri

Lambert-St. Louis Airport	August 13, 2003
---------------------------	-----------------

Montana

Rep. Rehberg, Sen. Burns, Sen. Baucus	November 18, 2003
State of Montana, Information Technology Services	October 31, 2003
Custer County Sheriff's Office	October 20, 2003

New Hampshire

State of New Hampshire Commissioner, Dep't of Safety	October 28, 2003
--	------------------

PROJECT: CONSENSUS

New Jersey

Thomas Wright, resident of Franklin Park	October 15, 2003
Kevin Calvo, resident of Piscataway	October 14, 2003
Francis Kinney, resident of Waretown	October 27, 2003

New York

New York State Police	October 28, 2003
New York State Fire Departments	November 3, 2003
Firemen's Association of the State of New York	December 1, 2003
New York State Association of Fire Chiefs	November 10, 2003
New York State Association of P.B.A.'s	October 16, 2003
New York State Office for Technology	November 18, 2003
New Hartford Central Dispatch	September 10, 2003
Kevin Larkowski, resident of Holland	November 25, 2003
Kevin Moore, resident of Latham	November 25, 2003
David Awerbuch, resident of West Hempstead	November 4, 2003

North Carolina

Statesville Fire Department	December 1, 2003
Lumberton Fire Department	December 4, 2003
Sea Gate Volunteer Fire	November 20, 2003
Winston-Salem Fire Department	October 28, 2003
Kernersville Fire Department	November 25, 2003

Ohio

Representative Bob Ney	October 27, 2003
Ohio MARCS Program	August 27, 2003
Columbus Department of Public Safety	July 31, 2003
Pickaway County	August 14, 2003
Hamilton County Communication Center	July 31, 2003
Upper Arlington Fire Department	December 4, 2003
Mark Johnson, resident of Miamisburg	November 29, 2003
Paul Bagnasco, resident of Toledo	November 2, 2003

Oregon

Oregon Council of Police Associations	December 12, 2003
Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue	December 11, 2003
Oregon Fire Chiefs Association	December 11, 2003
Western Fire Chiefs Association	December 11, 2003

PROJECT: CONSENSUS

City of Salem Communications Division

September 23, 2002

Pennsylvania

Representative Curt Weldon	October 31, 2003
Rich Matason, resident of Greensburg	November 25, 2003
Stanley Hoffman, resident of York	October 31, 2003

Rhode Island

Representative James Langevin	November 4, 2003
Department of the State Attorney General	November 24, 2003
Lt. Governor, Charles Fogarty	December 2, 2003
North Kingstown Police Department	December 1, 2003

South Carolina

City of North Myrtle Beach	August 20, 2003
Hartsville Fire Department	November 12, 2003
Rock Hill Fire Department	December 4, 2003

South Dakota

Senator Tom Daschle	October 28, 2003
Professional Fire Fighters of South Dakota	October 5, 2003

Tennessee

Senate Majority Leader, Bill Frist	November 20, 2003
Province Healthcare	November 24, 2003
Trey Meadors, resident of Nashville	November 28, 2003

Texas

City of Plano	December 8, 2003
Mayor of Plano, Pat Evans	December 8, 2003
Burleson Police Department	December 1, 2003
Orange Fire Department	November 25, 2003
Carl Anderson, resident of Santa Fe	November 22, 2003
Gus Clemens, resident of San Angelo	November 7, 2003
Jann Formica, resident of Temple	November 6, 2003
Ted Cummings, resident of Temple	November 6, 2003

Utah

City of Provo	August 22, 2003
Ogden City	September 20, 2002

PROJECT: CONSENSUS

City of South Jordan	December 17, 2003
Virginia	
Senator George Allen	November 11, 2003
Virginia Fire Chiefs Association	November 21, 2003
County of Hanover	November 4, 2003
Chesapeake Sheriff's Office	August 1, 2003
Radford Fire Department	December 4, 2003
Bristol Fire Department	October 21, 2003
Winchester Fire and Rescue	October 21, 2003
Dale City Volunteer Fire Department	November 18, 2003
Arlington County Fire Department	December 10, 2003
City of Fairfax Fire Department	December 17, 2003
Hopewell, Virginia Police Department	November 26, 2003
Annandale Volunteer Fire	November 25, 2003
Washington	
Snohomish County Emergency Radio System	November 3, 2003
Kirkland Police Department	November 24, 2003
North Highline Fire Department, Seattle	December 4, 2003
Federal Way Fire Department	December 1, 2003
Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs	December 17, 2003
West Virginia	
Weirton Fire Department	November 25, 2003
Clarksburg Fire Department	December 8, 2003
Jerry Mounts, resident of Williamson	November 25, 2003
Wisconsin	
Dane County Public Safety	October 21, 2003
Marshfield Fire Department	December 11, 2003
Associations	
APCO, IAFC, IACP, MCC, NSA, MCSA	November 14, 2003
APCO, IAFC, IACP, MCC, NSA, MCSA	August 8, 2003
APCO, IAFC, IACP, MCC, NSA, MCSA	May 16, 2003
International Municipal Signal Association	August 7, 2003
American Mobile Telecom. Association (AMTA)	August 7, 2003
American Petroleum Institute	August 7, 2003
Association of American Railroads	August 7, 2003

PROJECT: CONSENSUS

Forest Industries Telecommunications	August 7, 2003
Industrial Telecommunications Association	August 7, 2003
PCIA – The Wireless Infrastructure Association	August 7, 2003
Taxicab, Limousine and Paratransit Association	August 7, 2003
National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association	August 7, 2003
National Public Safety Telecommunications Council	June 11, 2003
American Association of State Highway & Transp. Officials	September 25, 2002
Forestry Conservation Communications Association	September 25, 2002
International Association of Emergency Managers	September 25, 2002
National Association of State Foresters	September 25, 2002
National Association of Counties	February 10, 2003
National Association of Telecom. Officers & Advisors	February 10, 2003
National League of Cities	February 10, 2003
U.S. Conference of Mayors	February 10, 2003

Private Entities

Federal Express	September 23, 2002
Aeronautical Radio, Inc.	February 10, 2003
Northwest Airlines	February 10, 2003
United Airlines	February 10, 2003
Bell Interconnect, Inc.	February 10, 2003
CNY, Inc.	February 10, 2003
Commtronics of Virginia, Inc.	February 10, 2003
Communications and Industrial Electronic Corporation	February 10, 2003
G & P Communications	February 10, 2003
Intel Corporation	February 10, 2003
JPJ Electronic Communications, Inc.	February 10, 2003
KLL Wireless, Inc.	February 10, 2003
Motient Communications, Inc.	February 10, 2003
New York Communications Company	February 10, 2003
North Sight Communications, Inc.	February 10, 2003
Pete's Communications, Inc.	February 10, 2003
Racom Corporation	February 10, 2003
Ragan Communications, Inc.	February 10, 2003
Skitronics	February 25, 2003
Skyline Communications, Inc.	February 10, 2003
SR Communications Associates	February 10, 2003
Smartlink Communications	February 10, 2003
Wecom, Inc.	February 10, 2003

PROJECT: CONSENSUS

Western Communications, Inc.	February 10, 2003
WS Electronics, Inc.	February 10, 2003
Lucent Technologies	May 30, 2003
Action Communications, Inc.	March 4, 2003
Apache Corporation	March 4, 2003
Battles Communications, Inc.	March 4, 2003
BearCom	March 4, 2003
Telecommunications NA, BP p.l.c.	March 4, 2003
Blue Mountain Communications, Inc.	March 4, 2003
Business Radio, Inc.	March 4, 2003
Columbia Communications	March 4, 2003
Business Communications Corporation	March 4, 2003
Coastal Electronics, Inc.	March 4, 2003
Graybill Electronics, Inc.	March 4, 2003
Highland Wireless Services, LLC	March 4, 2003
Miller Communications	March 4, 2003
Monroe Communications, Inc.	March 4, 2003
Ohio Valley 2-Way Radio, Inc.	March 4, 2003
P&R Communications Service, Inc.	March 4, 2003
Radio Service Company	March 4, 2003
Sutter Buttes Communications, Inc.	March 4, 2003
Wells Communications Service, Inc.	March 4, 2003
PPG Industries	September 10, 2003
Province Healthcare	November 24, 2003

Congressional Support

Rep. Edward Markey (MA), Ranking Dem., Telecom Subcom.	December 18, 2003
Senate Majority Leader, Bill Frist (TN)	November 20, 2003
Representative Mike Rogers (MI)	October 22, 2003
Rep. Rehberg, Sen. Burns, Sen. Baucus (MT)	November 18, 2003
Representative Bob Ney (OH)	October 27, 2003
Representative James Langevin (RI)	November 4, 2003
Senator George Allen (VA)	November 11, 2003
Senator Thomas Daschle (SD)	October 8, 2003
Representative Curt Weldon (PA)	October 31, 2003
Representative John T. Doolittle (CA)	November 5, 2003

IACP Petition

November 3, 2003

PROJECT: CONSENSUS

Nextel

Guarantee of Funding

November 3, 2003

Talking Points

Press Release

ARIZONA

Todd Ryker

PO Box 3041 8131 W. Sandy Ln., Arizona City, AZ 85223

November 27, 2003 6:14 PM

Docket Number WT 02-55: I support the Consensus Plan

I support the Consensus Plan that is before the FCC. It is fully consistent with the state of readiness and the public trust that first responders champion every day. The adoption will virtually eliminate the persistent and dangerous problem of the ever-increasing numbers of cell phones interfering with our communications systems. Most importantly, it gives first responders additional spectrum for clear, reliable communications and a platform to meet their interoperability requirements. The Consensus Plan helps set the stage for implementing the communications networks required to protect the communities we serve.

Mitigation approaches are shortsighted, short-term solutions that inevitably will reduce first responders' effectiveness and put lives at risk. The Consensus Plan solves the economic, technical and policy problems associated with the current banding for public safety -- and it also makes room for future needs. By approving this plan, the FCC will be acting in the best interests of our society and putting public safety first.

I have signed this petition in support of the Consensus Plan because I believe that this issue needs to be resolved immediately and I urge the FCC to approve the Consensus Plan without delay.

Sincerely,

Todd Ryker

CALIFORNIA

JOHN T. DOOLITTLE
4TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE
SECRETARY
DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION
JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING
REPUBLICAN STEERING COMMITTEE

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

2410 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0504
(202) 225-2511

4230 DOUGLAS BOULEVARD SUITE 200
GRANITE BAY, CA 95746-5902
(916) 766-5680

<http://www.house.gov/doolittle>

November 5, 2003

02-55

Honorable Michael Powell
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

NOV 26 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

WTB
Public Safety
DU
HKP
3377

Dear Commissioner Powell:

I am writing to you regarding an issue of growing importance to the public safety providers and emergency "first responders" in my district. It is becoming increasingly clear that public safety organizations - fire, medical, police and other emergency groups - have insufficient radio spectrum to meet their critical needs.

As you know, the primary problem is that public safety and commercial radio frequencies are intermingled and adjacent to one another. This haphazard blending of communications networks is leading to dangerous interference that risks the lives of public safety personnel and the citizens they protect. It is the view of public safety leaders that as time passes this interference problem will continue to grow.

As it is explained to me, the fundamental cause of interference is the close proximity of public safety and commercial wireless operations within the 800 MHz spectrum band. The Federal Communications Commission should consider a comprehensive approach to rebanding that solves the problem on a national basis. Leaders in the public safety community believe that you can achieve this goal by enacting a plan that will provide additional spectrum to public safety at no cost to the public safety organizations and local governments that are now struggling with limited resources. With lives on the line, we cannot afford to do anything less.

This is a critical issue for our nation and I urge you to act expeditiously. In this era of increased homeland security, the need to equip our first responders with rapid and reliable communications must be a top priority. This interference to public safety communications needs to be remedied without delay.

Sincerely,

John T. Doolittle
JOHN T. DOOLITTLE
United States Representative

12 NOV 2003 RCUD

No of Copies rec'd 1
List ABCDE

CELLULAR A-BAND INTERFERENCE

Submitted by the

Communications Division

of the

Orange County Sheriff's Department

June 2003

Overview

The Communications Division of the Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD/Communications) operates and maintains a Motorola SmartZone 800 MHz radio system using Astro digital and analog modulation. The system provides communications to one hundred twenty-five law enforcement, fire, lifeguard and public works agencies for the County and its thirty-four incorporated Cities. The system is divided into six simulcasting cells using sixty-five 800 MHz frequencies, both 806 and 821 MHz. The frequencies are distributed across twenty-four remote radio facilities intended to provide "in-building" radio coverage over approximately 800 square miles.

Cellular Presence

There are approximately 450 cellular facilities operating at 800 MHz in Orange County. These sites are almost evenly divided between NEXTEL, AT&T Wireless (A-Band) and Verizon Wireless (B-Band). AT&T and NEXTEL use TDMA while Verizon uses CDMA. There are at least two other non-800 MHz providers operating within the County.

Cellular A-Band Interference

Handheld and mobile radio communications on the Orange County system suffer A-band degradation every day. Based on sample tests, OCSD/Communications believes that at least one sector of all one hundred and fifty A-band facilities cause interference out to a radial distance of 100 feet. At least twenty-five facilities cause interference beyond 100 feet and several facilities have been observed to cause problems beyond a quarter of a mile.

The interference causes partial or complete loss of reception to the handheld or mobile users near the cellular facility. This occurs mostly to units operating in the 821 MHz band but has been frequently observed in the 806 MHz band. The interference affects both handheld (Motorola XTS 3000) and mobile (Motorola Astro Spectra) radios with the greatest impact to the handhelds.

OCSD/Communications believes that the primary interference mechanism is intermodulation products generated in the front-end of the receiver. Cellular signal levels greater than -20 dBm (over 20,000 uV) have been recorded at vehicle roof heights at distance of 100 feet from the tower. Non-laboratory grade bench testing indicates receiver front-end overload problems to the XTS 3000 when signals levels exceed approximately -35 dBm.

Relative to other providers, OCSD/Communications receives minimal cooperation from AT&T Wireless, the local A-Band service.

Non-A-Band Interference

OCSD/Communications suffers from similar problems caused by NEXTEL radio facilities. These problems impact mostly the 806 MHz frequencies. NEXTEL has been extremely cooperative in resolving interference.

Interference from Verizon Wireless facilities is extremely rare. Isolated Verizon sites have been observed to cause problems when receivers are placed on the same horizontal plane with the transmitting antennas, such as on a parking structure. Verizon facilities are also known to compound problems when co-located with other 800 MHz providers. OCSD/Communications has a working relationship with Verizon, but has never had to test its interference mitigation responsiveness.

Contra Costa County



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL
Fire Protection District

Fire Chief
KEITH RICHTER

Marlene H Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE Docket 02-55

Dear Ms Dortch

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District would like to express its support for the "Consensus Plan" filed by public safety organizations, private wireless organizations, and Nextel, in the above-reference proceeding regarding interference to 800 MHz public safety systems

Our District provides fire protection and Emergency Medical Services for most of Contra Costa County, located across the Bay from San Francisco and just north of Oakland/Alameda County. We are surrounded by agencies utilizing 800 MHz trunked radio systems. Our County currently utilizes a mix of Lowband, VHF, UHF, UHF T-Band, and 800 MHz conventional channels. It is the County's intention to migrate to a 700 MHz trunked system as soon as the spectrum becomes available in 2007.

We are well aware of the problems our neighboring agencies are having with interference to their 800 MHz systems. Although we are not directly impacted by this particular problem, we have followed the discussion since its inception and listened with empathy for the agencies that have had to deal with this on a daily basis. This issue is a firefighter and law enforcement safety issue that must be addressed rapidly and decisively.

It is imperative that the Commission decides favorably for the "Consensus Plan" as it is the most logical, realistic solution to the Nextel interference problems. In addition, it is the only solution that will clean up the unsatisfactory channel usage plan in the 800 MHz spectrum.

The Commission should not allow this short window of opportunity to pass by without making a positive investment in the future of the 800 MHz band.

Respectfully submitted,

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

By *Keith B Richter*
Keith B Richter, Fire Chief
July 30, 2003

- 2010 GEARY ROAD • PLEASANT HILL, CALIFORNIA 94523-4694 • TELEPHONE (925) 930-5500 • FAX 930-5592
 4527 DEERFIELD DRIVE • ANTIOCH, CALIFORNIA 94509 • TELEPHONE (925) 757-1303 • FAX 754-8852
 WEST COUNTY AREA • TELEPHONE (510) 374-7070

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



RECEIVED & INSPECTED

SEP 08 2003

FCC - MAILROOM

KENNETH A. STUBER,
Telecommunications
Engineer III

Kstuber@cityofsacramento.org

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT
NETWORK SERVICES DIVISION

904 Eleventh Street
Sacramento, CA
95814
Tel: 916-808-8511
FAX: 916-264-8516

August 28, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: DOCKET 02-55

Dear Ms. Dortch.

The City of Sacramento's Police, Fire and Local Government radio users would like to express their support for the Consensus Plan filed by public safety organizations, private wireless organizations, and Nextel, in the above reference proceeding regarding interference to 800 MHz public safety systems

The City of Sacramento utilizes 2,500 subscriber units as part of the Sacramento Regional Radio Communications System. We are experiencing communications problems due to interference from Nextel and Cellular telephone sites.

I believe the FCC should adopt the consensus plan, as it will eliminate most interference to critical systems by addressing the root cause of the problem. Funding has been established to implement the consensus plan and it will provide additional, much needed, 800 MHz public safety channels

Respectfully submitted,

City of Sacramento

By: Kenneth A. Stuber

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

0



Police Department
2000 Stevenson Boulevard, P.O. Box 5007, Fremont, CA 94537-5007
510 790-6800 ph | www.fremontpolice.org

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

August 25, 2003

RECEIVED & INDEXED
SEP 11 2003
FCC - MAILROOM

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket 02-55

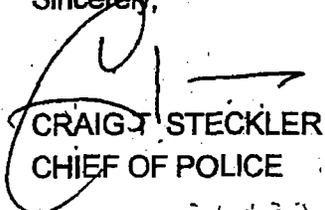
Dear Ms. Dortch:

I would like to express my support for the "Consensus Plan" filed by public safety organizations, private wireless organizations, and Nextel, in the above-referenced proceeding regarding interference to 800 MHz public safety systems.

The Fremont Police Department uses an 800 MHz public safety radio system. While we have not experienced any cellular interference to date, we realize that we could at any point in the future unless preventative measures are taken.

I believe the Federal Communications Commission should adopt the Consensus Plan because it will eliminate most interference to critical public safety systems. It addresses the root cause of interference by realigning licensing of 800 MHz systems into separate blocks of spectrum for public safety and wireless carriers. Most importantly, the Consensus Plan provides additional 800 MHz band channels for public safety and funding for implementation of the plan.

Sincerely,


CRAIG J. STECKLER
CHIEF OF POLICE

No. of Copies rec'd _____
List A E C D E _____

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT

02-55

Continued

NOV 21 2003

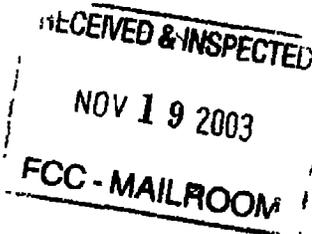
Mario H. Treviño, Chief of Department
Raymond R. Balzanni, Deputy Chief of Operations
Joseph C. Asaro, Deputy Chief of Administration



698 Second Street
San Francisco, CA 94107
(415) 558-3400

November 4, 2003

Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S W
Washington, D.C 20554



Dear Madame Secretary,

As a chief for the San Francisco Fire Department and 31-year veteran of the fire service, I know how important it is for firefighters and other public safety personnel to have access to clear and reliable communications tools. Unfortunately, interference in the 800 MHz spectrum continues to threaten this access.

Without clear and reliable communications firefighters simply cannot do their job as well as they should be able to, creating unnecessary public safety risks.

I have been informed that a number of potential fixes have been presented to the FCC to address the interference problem. However, it seems that only the Consensus Plan for realigning the 800 MHz spectrum is truly aiming to eradicate interference, rather than just fix it on a case-by-case basis when it happens to occur. It is this proactive approach that has led me to join my colleagues from the International Association of Fire Chiefs in supporting the Plan.

Please join me and hundreds of public safety organizations across the country in voicing your support to the FCC and speaking out on behalf of the Consensus Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mario H. Treviño".

Mario H. Treviño
Chief of Department

cc: International Association of Fire Chiefs

RECV'D & INSPECTED
NOV 25 2003
FCC-GBG MAILROOM

COLORADO

SHULMAN
ROGERS
GANDAL
PORDY &
ECKER, P.A.

September 17, 2002

BY ELECTRONIC FILING

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

Re: WT Docket No. 02-55
Ex Parte Presentation

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On September 15, 2003, Steve Browne, Deputy Manager of Safety for Technology and Operations for the City and County of Denver, Colorado, Jay Jacobsmeyer of Pericle Communications Company (a consultant to Denver), George Weimer of Trott Communications Group, Inc. (a consultant to the Industrial Telecommunications Association) and the below-signed counsel to Denver, met with Michael Wilhelm, John Muleta, Catherine Seidel, D'Wana Terry, Shelly Blakeney and Roberto Mussenden of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. During the meeting, representatives from Denver and ITA discussed Denver's 800 MHz interference problems, Denver's efforts to mitigate the interference, and Denver's support of the 800 MHz Consensus Plan.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b)(2) of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. §1.1206(b)(2), this letter is being provided to you for inclusion in the public record of the above-referenced proceeding.

Sincerely,

Alan S. Tilles
Counsel to the City and County of Denver

**Ex Parte Presentation
City And County Of
Denver, Colorado**

September 15-16, 2003

Alan S. Tilles, Esquire

Shulman, Rogers, Gandal, Pordy & Ecker, P.A.

www.shulmanrogers.com

Denver's 800 MHz Radio System

- 48 Channel 800 MHz Public Safety/Utility EDACS Radio System
- 13 NPSPAC Channels, 35 "Interleaved" Channels
- Supports Both Denver Public Safety And Denver Public Utility Communications
- Denver's Position In WT Docket No. 02-55 Represents Denver's Position As An 800 MHz Public Safety And Utility Licensee

Denver's 800 MHz Interference Problem

- Interference Already Discovered At Twenty-Four Different Geographic Locations In And Around Denver
- Areas Of Interference As Large As Several Blocks
- Interference Caused By Nextel And AT&T (Cellular "A" Carrier) Both In Combination And Alone
- Details In Denver's June 11, 2003 Ex Parte

Denver's Efforts At Interference Mitigation

- Through Cooperation With Nextel, Denver Has Reduced - But Not Eliminated - Interference To Denver's Five Control Channels Via A Number Of "Best Practices" And "Technical Toolbox" Methods
 - No Mitigation Yet Accomplished At Four Sites Requiring AT&T's Cooperation
 - See Denver's June 11, 2003 Filing
- Interference Mitigation Has Only Been Partially Successful
 - Denver Still Receives Interference On It's Non-Control Channels At Most Sites
 - Partial Mitigation Has Been At The Expense Of A Significant Reduction In Nextel's Capacity To Avoid Intermodulation Hits On Denver's Control Channels
 - AT&T Still Causing Interference And Has Not Implemented Any Mitigation – Even On Denver Control Channels

Denver's Interference Problem Has Imperiled Officer's Lives

- <http://www.denverpost.com/Stories/0,1413,36%7E53%7E1591346,00.html#>
- Other Examples Are Readily Available

Denver Must Have A Long-Term, Permanent Solution

- Despite Implementation Of “Best Practices” And “Technical Toolboxes,” Denver’s Interference Problem Continues To Imperil Denver’s Public Safety Workforce
 - Denver Personnel, Employed For Tasks Other Than Interference Chasing, Have Spent Hundreds Of Hours Chasing Down Interference And Trying To Find “Technical” Solutions
- Attempting To Fix Interference Problems After Discovery Is A High Stakes “Whack-A-Mole” Game, And Life Is The Ultimate Loser

Denver's Long Term Solution

- Denver Has Negotiated A Spectrum Swap With Nextel, Which Includes Long-Term Measures To Provide Denver With Operations Free From Nextel Interference On One-Half Of Denver's Channels
- Denver's Spectrum Swap Agreement Is Based Upon And A Prelude To The Consensus Plan
 - Failure To Adopt The Consensus Plan Will Eliminate Most Long-Term Benefits Of The Denver/Nextel Swap Agreement

Denver's Spectrum Swap Agreement

- Provides For Full Funding By Nextel For Work To Be Performed By A Third Party Vendor Pursuant To A Statement Of Work ("SOW") Negotiated Between Denver And Nextel
 - Cost To Denver Of Interference Mitigation Efforts To Date: Hundreds Of Thousands Of Dollars
 - In Contrast - Denver's Costs Of Channel Swapping Will Be Borne By Nextel
 - SOW Is An Appendix To The Spectrum Swap Agreement
 - Once Work Has Begun, Entire Retune Of Repeaters, BDAs And More Than 4,200 Radios Will Take A Total Of Twenty-Five (25) Days *With No Disruption Of Essential Communications For Denver*

Denver Supports The Consensus Plan

- The Consensus Proposal Is The Only Proposal Before The FCC Which:
 - Is Proactive;
 - Is Funded;
 - Is Widely Supported By An Overwhelming Majority Of The 800 MHz Community;
 - RESOLVES The Problem;
 - Does Not Penalize Any Party Causing Or Receiving Interference;
 - Provides More Spectrum For Public Safety
- August 7, 2003 Ex Parte Presentation By Consensus Parties Eliminates Interference Distinction In 859-861 MHz vs. Lower Band Licensees, And Therefore Eliminates Any Perception Of "Second Class Spectrum"

Denver's Position On Motorola's "Technical Toolbox"

- Denver Appreciates The Recent Technical Advances Made By Motorola, And Hopes These Advances Will Be Available For Non-Motorola Equipment
- As Of September, 2002, Pre-Selector Filtering And Switchable Attenuators Were Not Solutions
 - Motorola September 19, 2002 FCC Ex Parte Briefing
 - New Advances Make These Technologies Part Of The Solution, But Not A Solution Alone
 - In Denver's Experience, And As Detailed In The Consensus Parties' August 7, 2003 Ex Parte Presentation, The "Technical Toolbox" Alone Does Not Resolve Interference

Denver's Position On The "Balanced Approach"

- Balance - Defined By The American Heritage Dictionary As: "A State Of Equilibrium" or "A Harmonious Arrangement Or Proportion Of Parts"
- The "Balanced Approach" Only Balances The Lives Of Public Safety Officers Against The Interests Of Entities Seeking To Strengthen Their Own Spectrum And Competitive Positions

The “Balanced Approach”

- Is Reactive – It Does Not Prevent Interference
 - Depends On “Case-By-Case” Interference Resolution, Which Denver Has Found To Be Wholly Inadequate
 - Identification Of Interference Site May Be The Result Of An Officer In Danger
- Offers No Funding For The Endless “Whack-A-Mole” Which Entities Like Denver Will Continue To Endure
- Imposes Regulations On Nextel And Other “Cellularized” Operations Below 869 MHz, While Exonerating Cellular Licensees From The Same Responsibilities
 - Record Demonstrates That Cellular Licensees Have Been Less Than Cooperative In Interference Resolution, Yet They Are Significant Contributors To Public Safety Interference
- Provides No New Public Safety Spectrum

The “Balanced Approach”

- Public Safety Agencies Do Not Have The Manpower Or Funding To Respond To Notifications And Certifications
- The Continued Build-Out Of CMRS Systems Makes Such Tasks Mindlessly Time Consuming
- Since Cellular Systems Are Causing This Interference, All Cellularized Operations Should Be Subject To The Same Rules And Requirements

The “Balanced Approach”

- **Advocates Want To “Initiate A Review” To Assess Progress And Effects Of Interference Mitigation Measures**
 - **Denver, Seattle, Portland, Dallas, Orange County, Anne Arundel County, Etc. Have Conducted All The “Review” Necessary To Assess The Progress And Effects Of Interference Mitigation Measures**
- **It Is Now Time To Move Onto Solutions, Not Endless Study**

The “Balanced Approach”

- The Entire Interference Avoidance Mechanism Proposed Consists Of Nextel (And NOT Cellular Licensees) Performing An “Engineering Analysis” Showing That Interference Is Not Predicted To Co-Channel Or Adjacent Channel Licensees
 - Primary Cause Of Interference In This Case (IM) Is Not A Co-Channel Problem
 - Cellularized Operators Below 869 MHz Do Not Know Where Cellular A And B Operators Are Operating Or What Frequencies Using As These Operators Do Not Have A Spectrum Utilization Reporting Requirement
 - Much Of Denver’s Interference Is A Combination Of The Two
 - There Will Always Be IM “Hits” From Any Operation (Or Combination Of Operations) To Other Licensees, At What Point Is It “Interference”?
 - TSB-88 Only Addresses Interference To The Channel Directly Adjacent To The Proposed Interference
 - Interference Is Not Limited To Directly Adjacent Channels

The “Balanced Approach”

- The Proposed Eligibility Flexibility To Encourage Spectrum Swaps Is Useless
 - Spectrum Swaps With NPSPAC Are Impossible, As NPSPAC Channels Are Allocated As A Block
 - Even If “One-Off” NPSPAC Spectrum Swaps Were Possible, It Would Trade One Licensee’s Interference For Another’s New Problem
 - Spectrum Swaps Within The Interleaved Channels Do Not Adequately Space Cellularized And Non-Cellularized Systems To Reduce Interference
 - Interleaved Spectrum Swaps May Cure One Licensee’s Interference, But Create Interference For Another Licensee

CONNECTICUT



CENTRAL
CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

1815 Stanley Street P.O. Box 4010 New Britain, CT 06060-4010 www.ccsu.edu

Richard L. Judd, President

Tel: (860)832-3000

Fax: (860)832-3033

E-mail: judd@ccsu.edu

September 25, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: WT Docket No. 02-55

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I write to call your attention to an important issue that significantly affects Connecticut and our nation regarding the issue of public safety radio interference. Public safety agencies utilize dedicated channels on the 800 MHz spectrum. Commercial wireless operations are located on adjacent bands. The incompatibility of these two different functions and the significant problems that occur due to interference needs immediate resolution. Public safety communications, especially in these times, cannot be compromised or be subject to interference.

I speak with some experience in this matter. I chaired the Emergency Operations Command in New Britain when it changed its public safety communication system to an 800 MHz-trunked system. New Britain was the first public safety operation to do so in Connecticut, long before other public safety agencies did so. I also serve as Chairman of the Connecticut Department of Public Safety's Citizens Advisory Committee and as a member of the Connecticut Commission on Police Department Accreditation. In all these bodies, the integrity and operation of public safety communications is a matter of continual review and discussion.

The Federal Communication Commission has a plan currently under consideration that addresses the current quagmire of 800 MHz systems licensing. The *Consensus Plan* will virtually eliminate the interference, provide additional bandwidth spectrum for public safety providers and offer a platform for future development.

I urge your support of the *Consensus Plan* solution that is so important to solving a vexing and dangerous problem in public safety communications.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Judd
President

Chairman, CT Department of Public Safety
Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Mr. John Doyle ✓
Mr. Arthur Spada



CENTRAL
CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

1615 Stanley Street P.O. Box 4010 New Britain, CT 06050 - 4010 www.ccsu.edu

Richard L. Judd, President

Tel: (860)832-3000

Fax: (860)832-3033

E-mail: judd@ccsu.edu

September 25, 2003

Senator Christopher J. Dodd
SR-448 Russell Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chris
Dear Senator Dodd:

I write to call your attention to an important issue that significantly affects Connecticut and our nation regarding the issue of public safety radio interference. Public safety agencies utilize dedicated channels on the 800 MHz spectrum. Commercial wireless operations are located on adjacent bands. The incompatibility of these two different functions and the significant problems that occur due to interference needs immediate resolution. Public safety communications, especially in these times, cannot be compromised or be subject to interference.

I speak with some experience in this matter. I chaired the Emergency Operations Command in New Britain when it changed its public safety communication system to an 800 MHz-trunked system. New Britain was the first public safety operation to do so in Connecticut, long before other public safety agencies did so. I also serve as Chairman of the Connecticut Department of Public Safety's Citizens Advisory Committee and am a member of the Connecticut Commission on Police Department Accreditation. In all these bodies, the integrity and operation of public safety communications is a matter of continual review and discussion.

The Federal Communication Commission has a plan currently under consideration that addresses the current quagmire of 800 MHz systems licensing. The *Consensus Plan* will virtually eliminate the interference, provide additional bandwidth spectrum for public safety providers and offer a platform for future development.

I urge your support of the *Consensus Plan* solution that is so important to solving a vexing and dangerous problem in public safety communications.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Judd
President
Chairman, CT Department of Public Safety
Citizens Advisory Board

op

bc: Mr. John Doyle ✓
Mr. Arthur Spada



CENTRAL
CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

1615 Stanley Street P.O. Box 4010 New Britain, CT 06050-4010 www.ccsu.edu

Richard L. Judd, President

Tel: (860)832-3000

Fax: (860)832-3033

E-mail: judd@ccsu.edu

September 25, 2003

Representative Nancy L. Johnson
2113 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0705

Dear Representative ^{Nancy} Johnson:

I write to call your attention to an important issue that significantly affects Connecticut and our nation regarding the issue of public safety radio interference. Public safety agencies utilize dedicated channels on the 800 MHz spectrum. Commercial wireless operations are located on adjacent bands. The incompatibility of these two different functions and the significant problems that occur due to interference needs immediate resolution. Public safety communications, especially in these times, cannot be compromised or be subject to interference.

I speak with some experience in this matter. I chaired the Emergency Operations Command in New Britain when it changed its public safety communication system to an 800 MHz-trunked system. New Britain was the first public safety operation to do so in Connecticut, long before other public safety agencies did so. I also serve as Chairman of the Connecticut Department of Public Safety's Citizens Advisory Committee and am a member of the Connecticut Commission on Police Department Accreditation. In all these bodies, the integrity and operation of public safety communications is a matter of continual review and discussion.

The Federal Communication Commission has a plan currently under consideration that addresses the current quagmire of 800 MHz systems licensing. The *Consensus Plan* will virtually eliminate the interference, provide additional bandwidth spectrum for public safety providers and offer a platform for future development.

I urge your support of the *Consensus Plan* solution that is so important to solving a vexing and dangerous problem in public safety communications.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Judd
President
Chairman, CT Department of Public Safety
Citizens Advisory Board

cc Mr. John Doyle ✓
Mr. Arthur Spada



CENTRAL
CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

1815 Stanley Street P.O. Box 4010 New Britain, CT 06050 - 4010 www.ccsu.edu

Richard L. Judd, President

Tel: (860)832-3000

Fax: (860)832-3033

E-mail: judd@ccsu.edu

September 25, 2003

Representative John B. Larson
1005 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0701

Dear Representative ~~Larson~~ Larson:

I write to call your attention to an important issue that significantly affects Connecticut and our nation regarding the issue of public safety radio interference. Public safety agencies utilize dedicated channels on the 800 MHz spectrum. Commercial wireless operations are located on adjacent bands. The incompatibility of these two different functions and the significant problems that occur due to interference needs immediate resolution. Public safety communications, especially in these times, cannot be compromised or be subject to interference.

I speak with some experience in this matter. I chaired the Emergency Operations Command in New Britain when it changed its public safety communication system to an 800 MHz-trunked system. New Britain was the first public safety operation to do so in Connecticut, long before other public safety agencies did so. I also serve as Chairman of the Connecticut Department of Public Safety's Citizens Advisory Committee and am a member of the Connecticut Commission on Police Department Accreditation. In all these bodies, the integrity and operation of public safety communications is a matter of continual review and discussion.

The Federal Communication Commission has a plan currently under consideration that addresses the current quagmire of 800 MHz systems licensing. The *Consensus Plan* will virtually eliminate the interference, provide additional bandwidth spectrum for public safety providers and offer a platform for future development.

I urge your support of the *Consensus Plan* solution that is so important to solving a vexing and dangerous problem in public safety communications.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Judd

President

Chairman, CT Department of Public Safety

Citizens Advisory Board

cc:
bc: Mr. John Doyle ✓
Mr. Arthur Spada



CENTRAL
CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

1815 Stanley Street P.O. Box 4010 New Britain, CT 06050 - 4010 www.ccsu.edu

Richard L. Judd, President

Tel: (860)832-3000

Fax: (860)832-3033

E-mail: judd@ccsu.edu

September 25, 2003

Senator Joseph I. Lieberman
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0703

Dear Senator ~~Lieberman~~:

I write to call your attention to an important issue that significantly affects Connecticut and our nation regarding the issue of public safety radio interference. Public safety agencies utilize dedicated channels on the 800 MHz spectrum. Commercial wireless operations are located on adjacent bands. The incompatibility of these two different functions and the significant problems that occur due to interference needs immediate resolution. Public safety communications, especially in these times, cannot be compromised or be subject to interference.

I speak with some experience in this matter. I chaired the Emergency Operations Command in New Britain when it changed its public safety communication system to an 800 MHz-trunked system. New Britain was the first public safety operation to do so in Connecticut, long before other public safety agencies did so. I also serve as Chairman of the Connecticut Department of Public Safety's Citizens Advisory Committee and am a member of the Connecticut Commission on Police Department Accreditation. In all these bodies, the integrity and operation of public safety communications is a matter of continual review and discussion.

The Federal Communication Commission has a plan currently under consideration that addresses the current quagmire of 800 MHz systems licensing. The *Consensus Plan* will virtually eliminate the interference, provide additional bandwidth spectrum for public safety providers and offer a platform for future development.

I urge your support of the *Consensus Plan* solution that is so important to solving a vexing and dangerous problem in public safety communications.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Judd

President

Chairman, CT Department of Public Safety

Citizens Advisory Board

cc: Mr. John Doyle ✓
Mr. Arthur Spada

November 24, 2003

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Docket 02-55

Dear Chairman Powell:

I would like to bring to your attention an important issue that profoundly impacts our country. The issue is public safety radio interference – a problem in desperate need of a solution. Public safety communications systems and commercial wireless operations are located on adjacent and intermingled channels in the 800 MHz spectrum band. The problem: technologies used by public safety and commercial wireless are incompatible with one another as neighbors. The result: dangerous interference, which causes garbled communications and prevents public safety officials from doing their jobs.

The Consensus Plan, currently under consideration at the Federal Communications Commission, would realign the current jumbled licensing of 800 MHz systems into separate blocks of spectrum for public safety and cellular wireless carriers. By implementing this plan, public safety interference will be virtually eliminated. Also, public safety will receive additional spectrum for future communications needs. Perhaps equally important, the Consensus Plan will be implemented at no cost to the American taxpayer.

The Consensus Plan is the only proactive and comprehensive solution to the dangerous problem of public safety interference. Please support the public safety community and implement the Consensus Plan without delay.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James A. Walters
Chief of Police

cc: Commissioners Abernathy, Adelstein, Copps
and Martin

DELAWARE

Richard Trincia

P.O.Box 501 602 Main Street, Odessa, DE 19730-0501

November 20, 2003 1:26 PM

Docket Number WT 02-55: I support the Consensus Plan

Dear Petition Manager:

I support the Consensus Plan that is before the FCC. It is fully consistent with the state of readiness and the public trust that first responders champion every day. The adoption will virtually eliminate the persistent and dangerous problem of the ever-increasing numbers of cell phones interfering with our communications systems. Most importantly, it gives first responders additional spectrum for clear, reliable communications and a platform to meet their interoperability requirements. The Consensus Plan helps set the stage for implementing the communications networks required to protect the communities we serve.

Mitigation approaches are shortsighted, short-term solutions that inevitably will reduce first responders' effectiveness and put lives at risk. The Consensus Plan solves the economic, technical and policy problems associated with the current banding for public safety -- and it also makes room for future needs. By approving this plan, the FCC will be acting in the best interests of our society and putting public safety first.

I have signed this petition in support of the Consensus Plan because I believe that this issue needs to be resolved immediately and I urge the FCC to approve the Consensus Plan without delay.

Sincerely,

Richard Trincia
P.O.Box 501
602 Main Street
Odessa, DE 19730-0501

FLORIDA



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:
Regulated Industries,
Chair
Appropriations
Appropriations - Subcommittee on Education
Banking and Insurance
Health, Aging, and Long-Term Care
Judiciary
Rules and Calendar

SENATOR ALEX DIAZ de la PORTILLA

President Pro Tempore
36th District

November 13, 2003

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Support for Consensus Plan for 800 MHz Realignment
Ex Parte, WT Docket No. 02-55

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to express my support of the Consensus Plan before the Federal Communications Commission and also express my concerns with the current situation. First responders are increasingly at risk due to interference from cellular phones. The onslaught of cellular phone usage has created a severe problem here in Florida, and across the nation. As usage increases, the risk of garbled or blocked police, fire and other public safety communications also increases. First responders urgently need more 800 MHz spectrum to have "interoperable" communications among police and firefighters and among neighboring jurisdictions.

Currently, there exists a solution. The FCC has before it a "Consensus Plan" that would address interference problems. The Plan provides a comprehensive solution that not only addresses the interference problems, but allocates additional spectrum for public safety needs, provides private funding to compensate licensee that may need to relocate to new channels, and ensures that all affected licensees receive equivalent replacement spectrum.

In short, this plan is a thorough and effective solution that would prevent disastrous consequences should no action be taken or other plans adopted. For example, the UTC/cellular "plan" suggests a case-by-case approach, which could potentially jeopardize the lives of emergency personnel and the citizens they serve. Public policy should be proactive, and the Consensus Plan uses that approach.

REPLY TO:

- 1555 S.W. 8th Street, Miami, Florida 33144-4132 (305) 643-7200
- 404 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5109

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

JAMES E. "JIM" KING, JR.
President

ALEX DIAZ DE LA PORTILLA
President Pro Tempore

November 13, 2003

Page 2

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter. I respectfully request that the FCC adopt in full the terms of the Consensus Plan and resolve the issues facing our public safety community in an expeditious manner.

Regards,

Alex Diaz de la Portilla
President Pro Tempore – Florida Senate



Florida Police Chiefs Association

Quality Law Enforcement for the Sunshine State

OFFICERS

President
CHIEF PAUL RUMBLEY
Falm Bay

1st Vice President
CHIEF JAY ROMINE
Holmes Beach

2nd Vice President
CHIEF TONY VELONIG
Temple Terrace

3rd Vice President
CHIEF LARRY MATHIESON
Ormond Beach

Secretary/Treasurer
CHIEF JAMES M. ISOM
Fruitland Park

Immediate Past President
CHIEF ROY ARGO
Coral Springs

Past President at Large
CHIEF L. NIEL A. COTE
Socorro Beach

Parkmentation
CHIEF DAVID BOYETT
Sunrise

Executive Director
CHIEF "HAL" ROBBINS
Tallahassee

DIRECTORS

District No. 1
CHIEF ALBERT HOGLE
Longboat Key

District No. 2
CHIEF GAIL S. RUSSELL
Green Cove Springs

District No. 3
CHIEF WALTER A. MCNEIL
Tallahassee

District No. 4
CHIEF PETE CICCARO
Miami-Dade Schools

District No. 5
CHIEF BRIAN TOOLEY
Sanford

District No. 6
CHIEF JOHN SKINNER
Port St. Lucie

District No. 7
CHIEF BRIAN LOCK
West Melbourne

District No. 8
CHIEF GERALD MONAHAN
Port Orange

District No. 9
CHIEF ROBERT L. HARRIS
Fl. Gulf Coast University

District No. 10
CHIEF DAVID W. SLUSSER
Panama City

District No. 11
CHIEF DAVID BOYETT
Sunrise

District No. 12
CHIEF LPSTER ARADI
Largo

District No. 13
CHIEF H.C. "SKIP" CLARK, II
Juno Beach

District No. 14
CHIEF DOUGLAS FOSTER
Umatilla

District No. 15
CHIEF L.W. "MIDGE" HEATHCOTE
Fort Meade

District No. 16
CHIEF NOLAN MCLEOD
Live Oak

November 18, 2003

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room 8-B201
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Support for the 800 MHz "Consensus Plan" to eliminate interference by First Responders

Dear Chairman Powell:

The Florida Police Chiefs Association is extremely concerned about the ever-increasing interference experienced in the 800 MHz band of the radio spectrum used by public safety's first responders from wireless communications systems. This is a problem that we have experienced not only within the State of Florida but also in more than half of the other states. Moreover, we are aware that it has been estimated that public safety agencies will experience interference at more than 350 locations this year - the highest single-year total to date. This increase in the interruption of mission critical communications during our responses to emergencies is alarming.

The Florida Police Chiefs Association supports the 800 MHz "Consensus Plan" proposal as we feel that it is a comprehensive and fully funded solution which will resolve a critical problem affecting our ability to render emergency services in the most effective and efficient manner. We believe that the proposal for the realignment of the spectrum is the best solution to the current situation and are aware that it has received wide support by all of the major public safety organizations

Unfortunately, absent your intervention, the risks associated with this problem will continue to grow. Needless to say, this is an issue of utmost concern for the public safety community and the public we serve. Therefore, we strongly urge you to consider realignment of the 800 MHz spectrum and full implementation of the 800 MHz "Consensus Plan." We thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Harold M. Robbins
Executive Director

CC: Chief Paul Rumbley, President
Chief Marshal Gage, Ad-Hoc Committee Chair
Ret. Chief Harlen R. McEwen



Capt. Wallian

**State of Florida
DEPARTMENT OF
HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES**

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0500

FRED O. DICKINSON
Executive Director

November 24, 2003

Mr. Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Room 8-B201
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket Number 02-55 (800 Megahertz "Consensus Plan")

Dear Chairman Powell:

The Florida Highway Patrol is concerned about the increasing interference experienced in the 800 MHz band of the radio spectrum used by public safety from commercial wireless communications systems. The communications system utilized to support all state law enforcement officers in Florida has already suffered interference as noted in the comments filed to the board on May 6, 2002, by the State of Florida, State Technology Office.

Interference with public safety communications systems is on rise throughout the country as commercial wireless systems grow. The added channel traffic and proliferation of cell sites in the 800 MHz band greatly increases the potential for interference with public safety communications. Interruption of mission critical communications due to interference jeopardizes the safety of our public safety personnel and the citizens and visitors of the state of Florida.

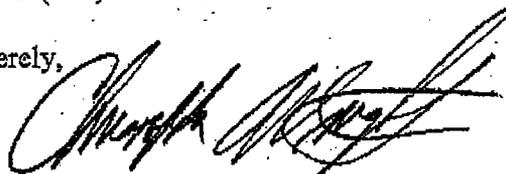
The Florida Highway Patrol supports the 800 MHz "Consensus Plan" as we feel that it is the best solution to resolve the current situation, while simultaneously providing much-needed additional spectrum to the public safety community.

We appreciate your interest in addressing this problem and request you and your fellow commissioners to act expeditiously to realign the 800 MHz spectrum per the "Consensus Plan" with the best interests of our public safety community in mind. We urge the Commission to culminate these proceedings so that any financial impact to public safety agencies is minimized, if not avoided altogether.

Mr. Michael J. Powell
Page 2
November 24, 2003

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If we can provide additional information regarding this issue, please contact us at (850) 488-4885.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher A. Knight", written in a cursive style.

Colonel Christopher A. Knight
Director
Florida Highway Patrol

CAK:sw



October 15, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The City of Tallahassee would like to express its support for the "Consensus Plan" filed by public safety organizations and private wireless organizations.

In 1997, the City of Tallahassee purchased an 800 MHz voice and data system. To date, we have experienced only limited interference from cellular providers. However, due to the increasing need for bandwidth and the constant expansion of cellular systems, we will most assuredly start seeing an increased rate of interference in the future.

The primary concern of the City of Tallahassee with the Consensus Plan is that the City would likely be financially responsible for moving our 800 MHz system to other bandwidths or frequencies. Since the cellular providers are creating this problem, we do not believe it is fair or reasonable for local governments to use taxpayers' dollars to move to another bandwidth or frequency. We would not be able to fund such a major change and require funding in this regard.

We believe the "Consensus Plan" offers a long-term solution to a very difficult problem. It will eliminate most interference and address the root cause of the problem. The plan also expands the available bandwidth for public safety and addresses the constantly growing need for bandwidth.

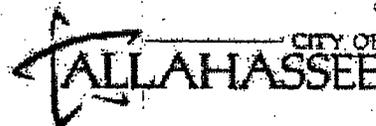
Sincerely,

Anita R. Favors
City Manager

ARF:sif

- cc: Thomas R. Coe, Assistant City Manager
- Chief Walt McNeil, Tallahassee Police Department
- David Reid, Director, Management and Administration
- Don DeLoach, Chief Information Systems Services Officer
- Dinah Hart, Intergovernmental Relations Officer

See X-ref documentation
"800 mhz Radio file"



October 14, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Support for the Consensus Plan for 800 MHz Realignment
Ex Parte, WT Docket No. 02-55

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The City of Tallahassee operates an 800 MHz trunked radio system providing critical public safety communications for police, fire and emergency personnel. We are actively following this vital proceeding for public safety and request that our views be considered.

First responders in Florida and across the Nation are increasingly at risk because their public safety radio communications are vulnerable to interference from cellular phones. As cellular usage increases, the risk of garbled or blocked police, fire and other public safety communications increases. First responders also urgently need more 800 MHz spectrum to have "interoperable" communications among police and firefighters and among neighboring jurisdictions. Fortunately, a solution is available.

The Federal Communications Commission has before it a "Consensus Plan" that would address cellular/public safety radio interference problems and provide more of the spectrum that first responders urgently need for radio communications. We support the Consensus Plan along with the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials-International, Inc.; the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Inc; and International Municipal Signal Association; the International Association of Chiefs of Police; the Major Cities Chiefs Association; the Major County Sheriffs' Association; and the National Sheriffs' Association. The FCC must adopt the Consensus Plan expeditiously in its public safety spectrum rulemaking, WT Docket No. 02-55.

We urge the FCC to resolve the issues facing the public safety community expeditiously and adopt in full the terms of the Consensus Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas C. Quillin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Thomas C. Quillin
Fire Chief

300 S. Adams St.
Tallahassee, FL 32301-1731
Phone: 904-991-0010 TDD: 911
tgo7.com

JOHN R. MARKS, III
Mayor

ANITA R. FAVORS
City Manager

ALAN J. KATZ
Mayor Pro Tem

JAMES R. ENGLISH
City Attorney

ANDREW D. GILLEM
Commissioner

GARY BERNDON
City Treasurer-Clerk

DEBBIE LIGHTSEY
Commissioner

SAM M. McCALL
City Auditor

MARK MUSTIAN
Commissioner

TO: Julie Rochester
General Counsel, CTIA

CC: Kevin Martin, Commissioner FCC
Sam Feder Legal Advisor, FCC
Marlene Dortch, Secretary, FCC
Diane Cornell, VP Regulatory Affairs, CTIA

It has been brought to my attention that on July 11, 2003 the CTIA filed an Ex Parte presentation to Sam Feder of the FCC commenting on the 800 MHz Balanced Plan and Consensus Plan. In that document your organization represented the City of Fort Lauderdale as being against the Consensus Plan. You used the Title "PUBLIC SAFETY LICENSEES WHO HAVE EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE "CONSENSUS PLAN". In the document there is a quote from The City of Fort Lauderdale which was ostensibly made about the Consensus Plan. This quote is actually taken from the City's original response to the FCC's original NPRM and the original Nextel White Paper. These comments were submitted on May 3, 2002 before the Consensus document was drafted and published. The fact that you attribute the comments to the Consensus Plan is in itself erroneous. Further, you cite May 3 as the date of the comments yet you failed to include the year. Any reasonable person would attribute the comment to this year when, in actuality it is over a year old. That creates further suspicion on my part as to what the intent of using the citation was.

When the original FCC NPRM was published Fort Lauderdale said it was inadequate. When the initial Consensus Report was issued Fort Lauderdale commented, in September 2002, that it too, was not detailed enough to support. Subsequently the Consensus Group has demonstrated what appears to be a complete and workable solution for both the short and long term and the City does, indeed, support the Consensus Plan.

It would be appreciated if you would correct, on the record, your comments to the FCC regarding Fort Lauderdale.

Mark D. Pallans
Telecommunications Manager
City of Fort Lauderdale
(954) 828 -5790



FLORIDA POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Voice of Florida's Law Enforcement Officers

November 25, 2003

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Docket: 02-55

Dear Chairman Powell,

I would like to bring to your attention an important issue that profoundly impacts our country. The issue is public safety radio interference – a problem in desperate need of a solution. Public safety communications systems and commercial wireless operations are located on adjacent and intermingled channels in the 800 MHz spectrum band. The problem: the technologies used by public safety and commercial wireless are incompatible with one another as neighbors. The result: dangerous interference, which causes garbled communications and prevents public safety officials from doing their jobs.

The Consensus Plan, currently under consideration at the Federal Communications Commission, would realign the current jumbled licensing of 800 MHz systems into separate blocks of spectrum for public safety and cellular wireless carriers. By implementing this plan, public safety interference will be virtually eliminated. Also, public safety will receive additional spectrum for future communications needs. Perhaps equally important, the Consensus Plan will be implemented at no cost to the American taxpayer.

The Consensus Plan is the only proactive and comprehensive solution to the dangerous problem of public safety interference. Please support the public safety community and implement the Consensus Plan without delay.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Best regards,

David Murrell
Executive Director

cc:
Commissioner Abernathy
Commissioner Adelstein
Commissioner Copps
Commissioner Martin



Orange County Fire Rescue Department

Barry H. Luke, Deputy Chief
Fire Communications Division

6590 Amory Court, P.O. Box 5879, Winter Park, FL 32793-5879
(407) 836-9119 Administrative Offices
(407) 836-9046 FAX
E-mail: barry.luke@ocfl.net

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket 02-55

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Orange County Fire Rescue Department would like to express its support for the "Consensus Plan" filed by public safety organizations, private wireless organizations, and Nextel, in the above-reference proceeding regarding interference to 800 MHz public safety systems.

Orange County Fire Rescue provides life saving emergency care to the residents of the unincorporated Orlando metropolitan area. More than a million persons rely on our agency for emergency medical, fire suppression, hazardous materials mitigation, and technical rescue support. More than 1,000 firefighters and emergency personnel rely on our 800 MHz radio system for support and coordination.

Orange County Fire Rescue relies on this radio network to provide us with instant access to other emergency responders and our dispatchers. Unfortunately, our agency experiences problems each day with our public safety radio system. Many of our problems are linked back to interference from outside systems, including radio signal blocking from wireless carriers.

We urge the Commission to adopt the recommendations and plans contained in the "Consensus Plan". We believe this plan will help eliminate most interference on public safety systems, will address the root cause of the interference problem, provides for a funding mechanism, and finally provides for additional 800 MHz spectrum for public safety coordination.

Respectfully submitted,

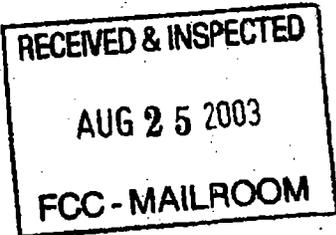
ORANGE COUNTY FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Carl L. Plaugher, Fire Chief



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

August 13, 2003



BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket 02-55

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Bay County Emergency Services would like to express its support for the "Consensus Plan" filed by public safety organizations, private wireless organizations, and Nextel, in the above-reference proceedings regarding interference to 800 MHz public safety systems.

Our Department manages the 800 MHz SmartNet Trunked Radio System for Bay County. We have over 1800 users on the system, which consist of Law Enforcement, Fire rescue, Emergency Medical Services, Animal Control, Public Works, Utilities and Traffic Engineering. We are also in the process with co-sharing in our county with the State Of Florida's Technology Office with respect to their statewide Law Enforcement Mutual Aid system.

We feel that the 800 MHz band could experience unprecedented harmful interference due to congestion and interaction with commercial cellular radio systems across the country. The problem may get worse and will continue to worsen short of significant action by the FCC working with commercial and public safety system operators.

We support the 800 MHz Consensus Plan. The plan was developed by a coalition of public safety and private wireless organizations to address the serious, growing problem of interference to 800 MHz radio systems. It will eliminate most interference to critical systems and addresses the root cause of interference, rather than just fixing it after the fact. The plan provides funding for implementation and it will provide additional 800 MHz band channels for public safety.

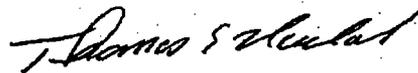
Based on the workshops we have attended over the past year, the "Balanced Approach" is inferior to the Consensus plan. Problems we see with the balanced approach are that it's reactive to interference problems, and does little to prevent interference from occurring in the first place. Some of the interference mitigation steps could lead to an increase in interference as well.

We believe the Balance Approach recommends specific channel swapping with Nextel as a possible remedy and the responsibility for correcting interference may fall on public safety licenses. Motorola's proposed equipment improvements are only a partial answer. The improvements only address interference caused by Intermodulation, not by out of band emissions. Only the newest Motorola radios can be upgraded, others would need to be replaced. Motorola's equipment improvements are only effective for public safety systems that already meet certain minimum levels of performance. Systems not meeting these levels would need to increase power levels and/or transmitter sites at a considerable expense.

The Balanced approach does not include any viable plan to pay the cost of its implementation. I believe under the Consensus Plan, Nextel has pledged \$850 million dollars to pay cost of frequency shifts, though the FCC may decide to impose an unlimited financial obligation on Nextel to pay all reasonable costs.

Whatever the case may be, our concern and interest is to protect Bay County's investment and the integrity of our 800 MHz radio system to ensure public safety needs are met.

Respectfully submitted,
Bay County Emergency Services



Thomas E. Nudo Sr.
Communications Manager



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

LEE COUNTY
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

RECEIVED & INSPECTED
SEP 05 2003
FCC - MAILROOM

(239) 335-2221

Writer's Direct Dial Number _____

Bob Jones
District One

Douglas R. St. Cerny
District Two

Ray Judah
District Three

Andrew W. Coy
District Four

John E. Albion
District Five

Donald D. Stilwell
County Manager

James G. Yaeger
County Attorney

Diana M. Parker
County Hearing Examiner

August 25, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Docket 02-55

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Board of County Commissioners would like to express its support for the "Consensus Plan" filed by public safety organizations, private wireless organizations, and Nextel, in the above-referenced proceeding regarding interference to 800 MHz public safety systems.

Our Division of Public Safety, Government Communications Network Program, provides a countywide Motorola 800 MHz voice radio and data communications system to facilitate effective and timely coordination for Lee County government and Sheriff's Department, all municipal governments and their police departments, and all fire service agencies plus state and federal offices resident within Lee County. Intermittently, over the last several years our radio system has experienced numerous minor interference problems and one major incident that were directly traced to Nextel. Nextel has always worked in close support of the County in mitigating this problem.

The FCC's adoption of the Consensus Plan would eliminate most interference to our critical systems and it also addresses the root cause of interference, rather than just fixing it after the fact. Further, the Plan provides for funding to implement the Plan and additional 800 MHz band channels for public safety.

Sincerely,

Donald D. Stilwell
County Manager

/lac
S:\DATA\ADMIN\DON\WORD\LTRS\Consensus Plan 08-25-03.doc

FILED
JUL 26 2003
JUL 26 2003



Sheriff Larry Campbell

LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

October 18, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Leon County Sheriff's Office would like to express its support for the *Consensus Plan* for 800 MHz realignment. First responders in Florida and across the Nation are increasingly at risk because their public safety radio communications are vulnerable to interference from cellular phones. As cellular usage increases, the risk of garbled or blocked public safety communications increases.

The only concern the Leon County Sheriff's Office has with the *Plan* is the remote chance that we might be financially responsible for moving our 800MHz system to other bandwidths or frequencies. This would not be an acceptable option due to the cost of such a major change.

Notwithstanding this, the *Consensus Plan* offers the only real, near term solution to a very difficult problem. The *Plan* addresses interference to public safety systems and allocates additional spectrum for public safety needs.

We urge the FCC to resolve the issues facing the public safety community expeditiously and adopt the *Consensus Plan*.

Sincerely,

Larry Campbell
Sheriff

LC/ka



Post Office Box 727 ★ Tallahassee, Florida 32302-0727
Office Phone (850) 922-3300 ★ Jail Phone (850) 922-3500
Please visit us on the web at: lcs.leonfl.org





The Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida 32306
Phone: 644-1240 Fax: 644-3205
www.fsu.edu/~fsu-pd

*University Police
Office of the Chief*

November 17, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

As the Chief of The Florida State University Police Department I would like to express support for the Consensus Plan for 800 MHz realignment. First responders on Florida campuses and in Florida are increasingly at risk because their public safety radio communications are vulnerable to interference from cellular phones. As cellular usage increases, the risk of garbled or blocked public safety communications increases.

Additionally, as you know campus communities are filled with young persons from around the country and world. Consequently in a time of perceived or real emergencies cell phone use increases dramatically, thus increasing the potential for interference. During this same period public safety radio needs are also great. In an area susceptible to hurricanes and other weather related emergencies the students in Florida university communities are at greater risk.

The Consensus Plan offers the only real solution to a very difficult problem. The Plan addresses interference to public safety systems and allocates additional spectrum for public safety needs.

I urge the FCC to resolve this issue as quickly as possible and adopt the Consensus Plan.

Sincerely,

Carey M. Drayton, Chief
The Florida State University Police Department

Cc: Paul Strouts
Kathleen Daly

December 2, 2003

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Docket 02-55

Dear Chairman Powell:

Public safety radio interference is of paramount concern to Law Enforcement Agencies. Currently public safety communications systems and commercial wireless operations are located on adjacent and intermingled channels in the 800 MHz spectrum band. The technologies used by public safety and commercial wireless are incompatible and create interference, resulting in garbled or non-existent communications for Public Safety Officers in the field. The end result exposes a potentially dangerous safety issue.

As a Law Enforcement Official, I strongly support the realignment of the current 800 MHz spectrum into separate blocks for public safety and cellular wireless carriers. This plan should be implemented at no cost to the taxpayer or Public Safety Agencies.

I respectfully request your support of this comprehensive solution as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

JAMES H. SCARBERRY
Chief of Police

C: Commissioner Abernathy
Commissioner Adelstein
Commissioner Copps
Commissioner Martin

November 24, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445-12th Street, SW
Washington, CD 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to express my support for the Consensus Plan for 800 MHz realignment. First responders in Miami, Florida and the nation are at risk because their public safety radio communications are vulnerable to interference from cell phones.

The only reservation I have with the plan is the remote chance that the city would be financially responsible for moving our 800 MHz system to other bandwidths or frequencies. So long as the Consensus Plan does not burden local governments with any costs, I support it.

As a former state trooper and a Miami City Commissioner, I support the FCC plan to resolve the issues facing the public safety community by adopting the Consensus Plan.

Sincerely,

Joe Sanchez

Cory Richter

1729 17th Avenue , Vero Beach, FL 32960

November 25, 2003 3:43 PM

Docket Number WT 02-55: I support the Consensus Plan

I support the Consensus Plan that is before the FCC. It is fully consistent with the state of readiness and the public trust that first responders champion every day. The adoption will virtually eliminate the persistent and dangerous problem of the ever-increasing numbers of cell phones interfering with our communications systems. Most importantly, it gives first responders additional spectrum for clear, reliable communications and a platform to meet their interoperability requirements. The Consensus Plan helps set the stage for implementing the communications networks required to protect the communities we serve.

Mitigation approaches are shortsighted, short-term solutions that inevitably will reduce first responders' effectiveness and put lives at risk. The Consensus Plan solves the economic, technical and policy problems associated with the current banding for public safety -- and it also makes room for future needs. By approving this plan, the FCC will be acting in the best interests of our society and putting public safety first.

I have signed this petition in support of the Consensus Plan because I believe that this issue needs to be resolved immediately and I urge the FCC to approve the Consensus Plan without delay.

Sincerely,

Cory Richter



Estero FIRE RESCUE

19850 Breckenridge Drive, Suite A
Estero, Florida 33928

Phone: (239) 947-FIRE (3473)

Fax: (239) 947-9538

web site: www.esterofire.org

December 17, 2003

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

Re: WT 02-55 Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band

Dear Madame Secretary,

One of the most pressing issues firefighters and other first responders face today is 800 MHz interference to their radios. In these times of heightened security and alert, our first responders need the support of the FCC in resolving this critical issue. No one can argue that highly reliable communications for public safety professionals does not save lives.

Interference in the 800 MHz band can come between a firefighter on the front line of defense and the chain of decision-makers assisting in an emergency situation. In fact, it is estimated that public safety agencies will experience interference at more than 350 locations this year – the highest single-year total to date. The trend is alarming and foreshadows the day when communications are interrupted during a future catastrophic event.

The Consensus Plan proposal for the realignment of the radio spectrum is the only solution to the current situation supported by all the major public safety organizations, including our national association, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the Southeastern Division of the IAFC, Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs, representing Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

We advocate for the Consensus Plan because it:

- Remedies interference to public safety communications systems and private wireless systems operating at 800 MHz

Marlene H. Dortch

Page two

- **Minimizes disruption to existing licensees and services - 70 percent of existing private wireless incumbents achieve benefits of Consensus Plan without any system modifications whatsoever**
- **Ensures public safety agencies have access to additional spectrum to support their critical missions**
- **Requires no federal, state or local funding to implement**

In a nutshell, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. I urge you and the FCC to adopt the Consensus Plan and to expedite implementation as quickly as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

**DENNIS J. MERRIFIELD
Fire Chief**



JOE A. MARTINEZ
COMMISSIONER

Board of County Commissioners
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY - FLORIDA
DISTRICT 11
111 N.W. FIRST STREET
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33128-1963
(305) 375-5511
FAX (305) 375-5883

December 4, 2003

Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Docket: 02-55

Dear Chairman Powell,

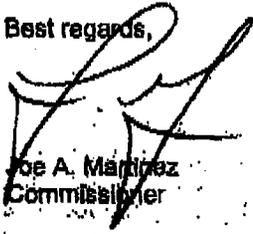
I take this opportunity to bring to your attention an important issue that profoundly impacts our country. The issue is public safety radio interference – a problem in desperate need of a solution. Public safety communications systems and commercial wireless operations are located on adjacent and intermingled channels in the 800 MHz spectrum band. The problem being that the technologies used by public safety and commercial wirelesses are incompatible with one another as neighbors. The result is dangerous interference, which causes garbled communications and prevents public safety officials from doing their jobs.

The Consensus Plan, currently under consideration at the Federal Communications Commission, would realign the current jumbled licensing of 800 MHz systems into separate blocks of spectrum for public safety and cellular wireless carriers. By implementing this plan, public safety interference will be virtually eliminated. Additionally, public safety will receive additional spectrum for future communications needs. Perhaps equally important, the Consensus Plan will be implemented at no cost to the American taxpayer.

The Consensus Plan is the only proactive and comprehensive solution to the dangerous problem of public safety interference. Please support the public safety community and implement the Consensus Plan without delay.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Best regards,



Joe A. Martinez
Commissioner

JM/ig