

Ms. Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Room TW-B204
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WT Docket No. 05-63

Dear Secretary Dortch,

I am writing to advise the Federal Communications Commission of the support of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police (F.O.P.) for the proposed merger between Sprint and Nextel. Both of these companies have long-standing partnerships with the law enforcement community, and we believe this merger will benefit public safety as a whole.

The F.O.P. is the nation's oldest and largest organization of fully sworn law enforcement officers, representing more than 318,000 members in over 2,100 lodges in every region of the country. As the preeminent voice of rank-and-file law enforcement officers, the F.O.P. works closely with government, regulatory agencies, and our corporate partners to ensure that our members' concerns are heard and the unique needs of our profession are met and understood. Our ongoing relationships with both Sprint and Nextel are excellent examples of what public-private partnerships can accomplish to better the safety of our officers on the beat and the public they are sworn to protect.

Sprint and Nextel provide a wide range of services that are tailored specifically to the unique communications needs of law enforcement. From Nextel's Push-to-Talk offering to Sprint's Collaboration Solutions and Emergency Preparedness Services, both companies have worked to ensure that law enforcement officers and other first responders have cutting-edge communications for every mission. As a combined entity, Sprint Nextel will be able to enhance services and provide more choices to the public safety community. Their commitment to implementing the FCC's 800 MHz reconfiguration initiative is critical to ensuring that our officers have interference-free communications.

The F.O.P. supports the Sprint-Nextel merger because it will help solve the dangerous interference problem, spur technological advancement, and benefit all Americans for years to come. We thank you for your consideration of our views on this matter. If we could be of any more assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco at the my Washington office.

Sincerely,

Chuck Canterbury
National President