



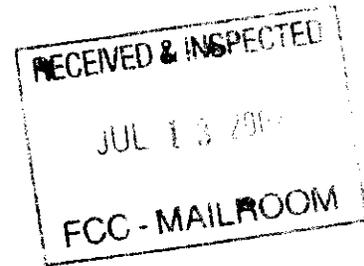
Andrew J. Ginther

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Columbus City Council

July 11, 2007

The Honorable Kevin Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554



Re: Written *Ex Parte* Communication; WT Docket Nos. 06-150, 06-169, and 96-86;
PS Docket No. 06-229

Dear Chairman Martin:

On behalf of Columbus City Council's Public Safety Committee, I am writing to urge the Commission to dramatically improve public safety communications for all first responders by taking advantage of the historic opportunity before it. The FCC can bring an end to the days when lives are lost because one agency cannot communicate to another agency by making the right decision and designating at least 10 MHz of commercial spectrum (known as the "E Block") for a public/private broadband partnership.

There are two major obstacles that have halted efforts to bring about a nationwide, interoperable broadband network for public safety. First, the funds simply do not exist. Second, public safety needs a wider spectrum than currently available to make a broadband network work. The plan proposed by Frontline Wireless solves both of these obstacles by providing for a buildout of the network with private capital and a doubling of spectrum availability to first responders and other public safety officials when they are needed most. Through modern technology this network would allow local agencies substantial control while becoming truly national in scope, serving 99 percent of the U.S. population.

We have yet to see another plan that would create the network we need to bring public safety communications into the 21st Century. One commercial incumbent even suggested that public safety's needs could be served by a network that leaves fully 25 percent of the U.S. population uncovered. That is certainly not the sort of "national" network that will make the American people safer. The stakes are too high to succumb to these and other claims that public safety's network will have to wait for another day. In the wake of the 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina tragedies, we are looking to provide our first responders with better tools to perform the tasks they have bravely undertaken. The time for us to act is now.

Thank you in advance for your consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Ginther
Chairman, Columbus City Council Public Safety Committee

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