



April 13, 2011

Admiral James Arden Barnett, Jr.  
Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: City of Charlotte, North Carolina  
700 MHz Public Safety Broadband Network  
April 2011 Quarterly Report  
PS Docket No. 06-229

Dear Admiral Barnett:

On behalf of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina (Charlotte), this letter submits the April 2011 quarterly report required by the Commission's *May 12, 2010 Order* addressing the 700 MHz public safety broadband segment.<sup>1</sup> The *May 12, 2010 Order* granted waivers to twenty-one state or local agencies, including Charlotte, for early deployment of public safety broadband networks in the 700 MHz public safety broadband spectrum. The CharMeck Connect (CharMeck) project is a partnership of the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, and the Towns of Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Matthews, Mint Hill and Pineville.

Paragraph 64 of the *May 12, 2010 Order* states that each waiver recipient, on a quarterly basis, must provide the Commission information addressing the project's planning, funding and deployment. The following information is an update.

CharMeck has encountered challenges that have led to reexamining and restructuring the project's path. At its core level is the need to reexamine CharMeck's contribution to the \$16.7 million Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) of the Department of Commerce. CharMeck's proposal to contribute personnel, facilities and other resources was not viewed by NTIA as consistent with its requirements. NTIA advised CharMeck to pursue alternatives to meet the grant matching requirements.

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<sup>1</sup> In the Matter of Requests for Waiver of Various Petitioners to Allow the Establishment of 700 MHz Interoperable Public Safety Wireless Broadband Networks, *Order*, FCC 10-79, PS Docket 06-229, Paragraph 64 (May 12, 2010).

An integral element of the reexamination is determining whether the necessary contribution can be generated from the project while adhering to the Commission's rules addressing access to the network and NTIA's funding policies. In this context, the initial Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Mobile Wireless 700 MHz LTE Network afforded little if no opportunity to explore more flexible alternatives. The initial RFP solicited a specific solution to design, construct and manage the network. Evaluating the circumstance, including how critical a broadband network is to public safety, CharMeck concluded that the only viable decision was to cancel evaluation of the initial RFR responses and to solicit broader and more flexible approaches.

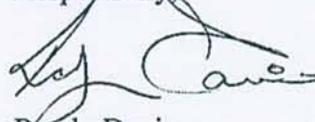
In pursuing a new path, CharMeck has retained additional expertise to assist in preparing and revising the RFP. The revision asks for proposals to design, construct and manage a 700 MHz public safety LTE broadband network while contributing to the project in a way aligned with NTIA's policies. On April 4, 2011, the revised RFP was released. Proposal submissions are scheduled for May 2011. Upon evaluation of proposals and NTIA approval, a Contract Award is envisioned for the summer of 2011.

The difficulty facing CharMeck is that with the expanded and revised RFP, the ability to project specific mileposts relies on more and in many ways, yet to be discerned, factors. Charlotte and the other CharMeck members remain committed to the vital goal of deploying a regional public safety LTE broadband network consistent with the Commission's technical and other rules and policies. Charlotte pledges its continued fidelity to coordinating and working with the various interests involved and appreciates the Commission's understanding of the challenge.

We have provided a copy of this quarterly report to Chief McEwen of the Public Safety Spectrum Trust and to Mr. Lance Johnson of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

Please call upon me if I can provide any additional information.

Respectfully,



Randy Davis  
Network Technology Services  
Business Support Services  
527 Spratt Street  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28206  
704-336-8088

Copy Provided to:

Chief Harlan McEwen  
Chairman, Public Safety Spectrum Trust

Mr. Lance Johnson  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
Department of Commerce