



July 11, 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
Fifth Quarterly Report (July 2011)
PS Docket No. 06-229

Dear Admiral Barnett:

On behalf of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina (Charlotte), this letter submits the July 2011 quarterly report required by the Commission's *May 12, 2010 Order* addressing the 700 MHz public safety broadband segment.¹ 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. The lead agency is the City of Charlotte.

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.

We previously noted that CharMeck encountered challenges that led to revising the project's path. Specifically, it was necessary 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 was required to pursue alternatives regarding the grant matching requirements.

In evaluating the circumstances, CharMeck concluded it necessary to cancel evaluating the initial RFP responses and to solicit broader and more flexible approaches. A revised Request

¹ 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).

for Proposals was issued on April 4, 2011 by the City of Charlotte. The revision asked for proposals to design, construct and manage a 700 MHz public safety LTE broadband network in a way that allowed CharMeck to contribute to the project consistent with the NTIA grant provisions. The revision also sought to streamline the evaluation and negotiation process. Apart from the revised RFP, the project's governance has been restructured to reflect the changed circumstances.

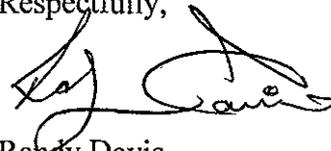
A pre-proposal conference was held on April 20, 2011 and addressed questions from interested parties. Several parties suggested that the quality of their response would benefit from additional time to complete proposals. Charlotte provided an additional month; the revised submission deadline was June 6, 2011. The work necessary to evaluate the proposals has commenced and is ongoing.

Charlotte and the other CharMeck members remain committed to the vital goal of a regional public safety LTE broadband network that is consistent with the Commission's technical and other rules and policies. Charlotte renews its pledge to coordinate and work with the various interests involved and appreciates the Commission's understanding of its challenges.

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,



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