



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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Submitted Via FCC Electronic Comments Filing System

December 10, 2012

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Public Safety Dockets 11-153 and 10-255, Text to 9-1-1

Dear Secretary Dortch:

On behalf of the Mayor's Office of Citywide Emergency Communications, I am writing to express my support for the Commission's actions on the above referenced dockets.

In an emergency, all means of communication with public safety agencies are important. While voice communication to 9-1-1 is preferred, we can't ignore that there are situations that occur where a voice call just isn't an option. There are numerous circumstances where people are in need of immediate assistance but are not in a position to make a voice call. We also know that texting is now the primary way hearing and speech impaired individuals communicate electronically.

There are tremendous benefits to using Next Generation 9-1-1 technology, of which texting is just one example. In regard to texting, there is a need for a smooth, coordinated national transition, with careful planning for implementation by PSAPs across the country. The Commission's action on texting to 9-1-1 starts us on the right course to better enable the public, in their time of need, to use texting to communicate with public safety agencies.

Please feel free to contact me should the Commission have any questions or need further information.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Gaskey".

Bruce Gaskey
Director, Citywide Emergency Communications