

**Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

<b>In the Matter of</b>	)	
	)	
<b>Facilitating the Deployment of Text-to-911 and Other Next Generation 911 Applications</b>	)	<b>PS Docket No. 11-153</b>
	)	
<b>Framework for Next Generation 911 Deployment</b>	)	<b>PS Docket No. 10-255</b>
	)	

**INITIAL COMMENTS OF THE TEXAS 9-1-1 ENTITIES  
TO THE FURTHER NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

The Texas 9-1-1 Alliance,<sup>1</sup> the Texas Commission on State Emergency Communications,<sup>2</sup> and the Municipal Emergency Communication Districts Association<sup>3</sup> (collectively, “the Texas 9-1-1 Entities”) respectfully submit the following brief initial comments to the Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”) Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“FNPRM”) seeking comments on part one of the bifurcated comment cycle on notification issues that has the potential to alleviate near-term consumer confusion as to the

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<sup>1</sup> The Texas 9-1-1 Alliance is an interlocal cooperation entity composed of 24 Texas Emergency Communication Districts with E9-1-1 service and public safety responsibility for approximately 53% of the population of Texas. These emergency communication districts were created pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 772 and are defined under Texas Health and Safety Code § 771.001(3)(B).

<sup>2</sup> The Texas Commission on State Emergency Communications (“CSEC”) is a state agency created pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 771, and is the State of Texas' authority on emergency communications. CSEC administers the Texas state 9-1-1 program under which 9-1-1 service is provided through the state’s 24 regional planning commissions to approximately two-thirds of the geography and one-third of the population of Texas.

<sup>3</sup> The Municipal Emergency Communication Districts Association is an association of 26 municipal emergency communication districts, as defined under Texas Health and Safety Code § 771.001(3)(A), that are located primarily in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

availability of text-to-911 both during the voluntary roll outs that several carriers have proposed and during the pendency of the Commission's proceeding.<sup>4</sup>

The Texas 9-1-1 Entities support the bifurcated and measured approach taken by the Commission in the FNPRM, and thank the Commission for its ongoing diligence and efforts to reasonably address these and other emerging NG9-1-1 type issues. As indicated in an earlier ex parte comment by the Texas 9-1-1 Alliance in this proceeding,<sup>5</sup> the Texas 9-1-1 Entities agree with the Commission's proposal in paragraph 25 of the FNPRM that Commercial Mobile Radio Service ("CMRS") providers and other providers of text messaging should be required to automatically notify consumers attempting to text-to-911 in areas where text-to-911 is not supported or in other instances where text cannot be transmitted to the Public Safety Answering Point ("PSAP"). This is important not only in the near-term where text-to-911 may not be deployed in an area, but thereafter because of the possibility a provider may not be able to transmit the text-to-911 message to the PSAP. More specifically, implementing automatic notification by June 30, 2013, is necessary in order to meet growing consumer expectations and use of text during emergencies. If any CMRS providers have justified or unique temporary feasibility and technical issues, if any, such can be reviewed by the Commission on a case-by-case basis at the request of those CMRS providers.

In the education related to text-to-911 questions in part one of the bifurcated FNPRM comment cycle,<sup>6</sup> the Commission specifically asked whether wireless carriers and interconnected

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<sup>4</sup> *In the Matter of Facilitating the Development of Text-to-911 and other Next Generation 911 Applications; Framework for Next Generation 911 Deployment*; FNPRM, PS Docket No. 11-153; PS Docket No. 10-255 (rel. Dec. 13, 2012) at ¶¶ 20-41.

<sup>5</sup> PS Docket Nos. 10-255 and 11-153, Texas 9-1-1 Alliance ex parte (filed Nov. 1, 2012).

<sup>6</sup> FNPRM at ¶¶ 33-41.

text providers should provide their customers information<sup>7</sup> and asked who among the interested parties should be primarily responsible for educating consumers about the availability and use of text-to-9-1-1.<sup>8</sup> The Texas 9-1-1 Entities stand by their earlier comments on these issues in this proceeding, which is that “ultimately, the communications industry, device manufacturers, states, regions, and localities, the Commission and other federal agencies must all be responsible and actively involved in education efforts and in making educational information widely available on web sites and other media.”<sup>9</sup>

The Texas 9-1-1 Entities appreciate the opportunity to provide these initial comments and respectfully request that the Commission take action consistent with these initial comments.

Respectfully submitted,



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<sup>7</sup> FNPRM at ¶ 39

<sup>8</sup> FNPRM at ¶ 41

<sup>9</sup> PS Docket Nos. 10-255 and 11-153, Texas 9-1-1 Entities initial comments at p. 14 (filed Dec. 12, 2011).

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President

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On the comments:

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January 29, 2013