

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

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

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

The Texas 9-1-1 Alliance,¹ the Texas Commission on State Emergency Communications,² and the Municipal Emergency Communication Districts Association³ (collectively, “the Texas 9-1-1 Entities”) respectfully submit the following initial comments to the Federal Communications Commission (the “Commission”) Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“FNPRM”). The FNPRM seeks comments on the proposed rules that will enable people to send text messages to 9-1-1 (“text-to-9-1-1”) and that will require all wireless carriers and providers of interconnected text messaging applications to support the ability of consumers

¹ 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).

² 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.

³ 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.

to send text-to-9-1-1 in all areas throughout the nation where 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Points (“PSAPs”) are also prepared to receive the texts.⁴

A. Routing of Text Messages to the Appropriate PSAP

The Texas 9-1-1 Entities fully support the Commission’s proposal to allow the designation of an alternative “appropriate” PSAP for purposes of routing text messages that is different from the PSAP receiving voice calls from the cell sector based on notification by the responsible state or local 9-1-1 authority.⁵ This alternative designation is crucial because there may be material technical or operational differences as to how to most responsibly receive, handle, or respond to a text-to-9-1-1 message compared to a voice 9-1-1 call. Examples of these technical or operational differences may include, but are not restricted to: (i) limitations associated with the ability to enable a transfer for text message or to enable transfer of a text message with the applicable data; (ii) text-to-9-1-1 default, overflow, and grade of service conditions; or (iii) a scenario where a federal military base PSAP that takes wireless 9-1-1 voice calls but prefers the applicable local jurisdiction receive text-to-9-1-1, etc. Accordingly, the Texas 9-1-1 Entities strongly support proposed regulation 20.18(n)(4) because it properly allows designation of an alternative “appropriate” PSAP for routing purposes.

B. PSAP Options for Receiving Text-to-9-1-1

In the context of PSAPs that have requested to receive text-to-9-1-1 and that also are NG9-1-1 capable PSAPs, the Texas 9-1-1 Entities agree with and support the Commission’s proposal that text-to-9-1-1 service providers deliver text messages to NG9-1-1 capable PSAPs

⁴ *In the Matter of Facilitating the Development of Text-to-911 and other Next Generation 911 Applications; Framework for Next Generation 911 Deployment*; PS Docket No. 11-153; PS Docket No. 10-255, FNPRM at ¶ 2 (rel. Dec. 13, 2012).

⁵ FNPRM at ¶ 118.

using a standardized NG9-1-1 protocol.⁶ NENA i3 should be the presumptive single protocol used for delivery of all text messages to NG9-1-1 capable PSAPs.⁷ In addition, within a reasonable period of future NENA i3 releases, perhaps within 18 months, providers should be required to demonstrate compliance with the future NENA i3 release. As such, new proposed 20.18(n) in Appendix B of the FNPRM should be modified to add a new subsection that reflects use of the single NENA i3 protocol to deliver text messages to NG9-1-1 capable PSAPs and a reasonable period for compliance with a future NENA i3 release.

Certain PSAPs have requested to receive text-to-9-1-1 and also desire to use the web browser option in a multi-party environment where multiple web browser options and applications may be available to the PSAPs. The Texas 9-1-1 Entities support the Commission's tentative conclusion that many of these issues can be resolved over time through development by vendors of standards-based interoperable web applications that enable Commercial Mobile Radio Service ("CMRS") providers, interconnected text providers, and PSAPs to choose single-source solutions rather than having to support multiple solutions.⁸ The Commission should modify new proposed 20.18(n) in Appendix B of the FNPRM to add an additional subsection stating that only standards-based interoperable web applications that enable CMRS providers, interconnected text providers, and PSAPs to choose single-source solutions may be used after 18 months from the date of rule adoption.

The Texas 9-1-1 Entities also agree with the Commission proposal to allow the PSAP to designate its text service provider as the recipient of text-to-9-1-1 if (1) the PSAP's text service

⁶ FNPRM at ¶ 128.

⁷ It is recognized that originating service providers will use other protocols before interfacing with the ESInet.

⁸ FNPRM at ¶¶ 132-133.

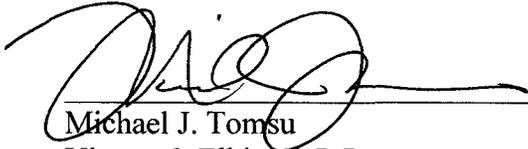
provider accepts text messages using industry-standard protocols, such as the NENA i3 standard, and (2) the PSAP text service provider does not charge the CMRS or interconnected text provider a fee for delivering such messages.⁹ The Commission should modify new proposed 20.18(n) to incorporate this requirement and the associated conditions.

Finally, in the context of both integrating multiple web browsers and the PSAP's text service provider, there should be a requirement to work in "good faith" with a PSAP and/or its text service provider on these issues, as requested and technically feasible. This "good faith" requirement should be incorporated into new proposed 20.18(n) in Appendix B of the FNPRM.

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.

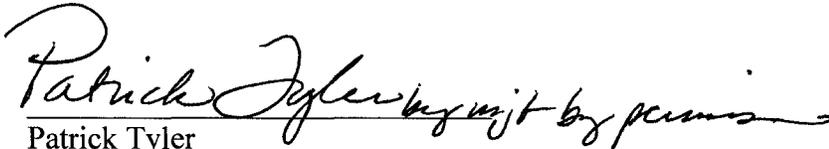
⁹ FNPRM at ¶ 33.

Respectfully submitted,



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