



City of San Antonio Police Department



"The San Antonio Police Department is dedicated to improving the quality of life by creating a safe environment in partnership with the people we serve. We act with integrity to reduce fear and crime while treating all with respect, compassion, and fairness."

December 4, 2013

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: San Antonio Police Department's Letter of Support for Request for Partial Waiver of Section 90.20(e)(6)(i) by the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators
PS Docket No. 13-281

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The San Antonio Police Department strongly supports the request for partial waiver ("Waiver Request") filed by the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators ("IAATI") requesting that the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") waive Section 90.20(e)(6)(ii) of its rules, thereby allowing public safety entities to track and recover stolen vehicles equipped with SVRS equipment for as long as those vehicles are in use.

The San Antonio Police Department's Vehicle Crimes Unit is part of the Regional Auto Crimes Team (ReACT) Task Force which partners with members of the Bexar County Sheriff's Department in order to investigate crimes involving the theft of vehicles and other vehicle related crimes and investigations. This task force is partly funded by a State of Texas grant that helps combat vehicle theft and vehicle burglaries.

As described in the Waiver Request, IAATI seeks a partial waiver to allow wideband (25 kHz) Vehicle Locator Units to transmit response signals after the FCC's May 27, 2019 narrow banding deadline so that older vehicles equipped with these devices may be tracked and recovered if stolen. We believe that the FCC's grant of IAATI's Waiver Request will benefit greatly the San Antonio Police Department, the ReACT Task Force and the public.

ReACT Task Force vehicles and Department helicopters are equipped with LoJack equipment that is lent and maintained by LoJack. On an almost weekly basis detectives are alerted to stolen vehicles that are equipped with a LoJack system. Detectives then "fan out" across the City searching for a signal from the stolen vehicle. Once a signal has been located officers will converge on the stolen vehicle and make arrests and recover the stolen vehicle. In a great number of these cases the recovery of the stolen vehicle has led to other arrests and the recovery of several other vehicles. Several "chop shops" have been dismantled and arrests have been made due to the fact that the LoJack system led officers to the stolen vehicle. There have been numerous instances when the arrested person will ask if there was a LoJack system attached to the vehicle that led officers to them. They are never told. It is apparent that the LoJack system definitely deters criminals in the theft of vehicles.

We urge the FCC to adopt in full IAATI's Waiver Request.

Respectfully,

Lieutenant Paul Heitzman
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