Decatur Police Department
P.O. Box 488
Decatur, Ala. 35602-0488
E-Mail kdcollier@ci.decatur.al.us

CRIMINAL INVE ATION DIVISION

256-432-2126
FAX-256-432-2153

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Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Re: Ultra-Wideband
ET Docket 98-153

Dear Ms. Salas,

I am writing in response to the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making on ultra-wideband radio. I represent the Decatur Police Department, the fifth largest municipal police agency in the State of Alabama. I am a thirty-year veteran law enforcement officer with a Master of Science Degree in Justice and Public Safety. I am the Commander of the Criminal Investigation Division which includes all detectives and narcotic officers.

In July of 1999 I witnessed a demonstration of a prototype of this radar technology. Also in attendance were other police officers, most of who were criminal and/or narcotic investigators and members of our Special Response Unit (SWAT Team).

I was very favorably impressed with this technology and I can see an application to law enforcement that would enhance the ability of our officers to be able to detect movement within enclosed structures. This movement would allow our officers to determine the presence and movements of individuals who may pose a threat to them or others during tactical situations. Any technology that may allow our officers to operate more safely is certainly of critical importance to us and to the officer's families as well.

Today's police officers are routinely faced with threats from well-armed criminals, radicals, terrorists, and the mentally ill. It is imperative that we provide them with the tools that will allow them to accomplish their mission in as safe a manner as is possible. This technology could very well give the officers the edge they need. I would urge you to consider the approval of this technology from the viewpoint of a wife or child

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whose husband or father was about to make entry into a building occupied by armed suspects. I am sure you would want them to have every tool available to increase the likelihood that they would be able to return home.

Most police departments of any size (small, medium, and large) have recognized the need to train and equip tactical teams for high-risk entry and other tactical situations. These units are largely responsible for the recent decline in the number of police officers killed in the line of duty. These units have utilized extensive training and special equipment designed to save the officers lives as well as the lives of the hostages and hostage takers.

I urge you to approve this technology in a timely manner and provide reasonable regulations that will insure the use of this technology for the intended purpose while at the same time guarding against harmful interference to critical public safety communication systems.

Sincerely,

Capt. Kenneth D. Collier
Commander/C.I.D.