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Monroe Police Department

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Evelyn B. Robinson
Chief of Police

ORIGINAL

James E. Mayo
Mayor

August 29, 2003

RECEIVED

SEP 17 2003

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

John W. Ozey
Assistant Chief of Police
(318) 329-2501

SENATOR JOHN BREAUX
503 HART OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON DC 20510

Administrative Services
Major Tom Medley
(318) 329-2259

IN THE MATTER OF IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS IN THE 800 MHz BAND;
WT DOCKET NO 08-55 (Ex Parte)

Criminal Intervention
Major Loren Price
(318) 329-2588

Dear Senator Breaux

Investigative
Major Herbert Orwell
(318) 329-2517

The Monroe Police Department has learned that several public safety agencies in our area have concerns regarding their 800 MHz communications systems. This communications system is the primary system for all activities performed by these agencies in our area. These agencies have not expressed any problems with interference with their 800 MHz system. They have expressed that this system is much-improved over the old high band system used in the past.

Patrol
Major Robert Cross
(318) 329-2606

The agencies involved do have some concerns regarding a private company, Nextel Communications, attempting to reallocate the 800 MHz band for its private/commercial use. The reallocation of this system would force these agencies to retune and/or replace their communications systems. During these times of budget cuts and shrinking tax revenues, this would be impossible for many of these agencies.

Social Operations
Major Billy Kemp
(328) 329-2641

Nextel calls this new plan a consensus plan. This consensus plan may jeopardize the effectiveness of the agencies' communications system and may cause interruption in the use of these systems while the consensus plan is being implemented. Furthermore, the consensus plan will require those agencies to change to alternate frequencies within twelve months. This will be an unnecessary expense to those agencies, and it may be impossible to be completed in that amount of time.

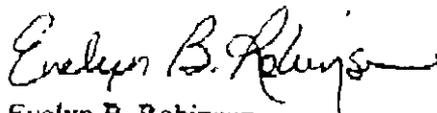
Additionally, under the consensus plan, these agencies would only be protected from interference if they met certain signal strengths and receiver requirements as prescribed by the plan. Many of our agencies do not have the extra resources needed to meet these requirements and would not be able to protect their communications system from interference. The lack of these resources and protection from interference would greatly hamper the services to our community. The 800 MHz communications system has proven to be a valuable asset to the public safety entities, and the quality of that communication system should not be sacrificed for monetary gains of a private corporation.

There is an alternative proposal that was presented to the Federal Communication Commission on May 29, 2003. This proposal was introduced to the Commission as the "balanced approach." The "balanced approach" provides protection to these agencies by not requiring them to relocate to alternate frequencies and appears to safeguard those procedures that would resolve the interference problems. The "balanced approach" also has proactive steps to immediately deal with those interference problems that may occur by relying on technology and greater enforcement regarding the interference. It would be simpler and more effective than the consensus plan.

The "balanced approach" will provide greater protection to the public safety users at less cost and with less interruption of 800 MHz service. I urge you to help us protect our public safety communications systems and send a message to Nextel advising them the Federal Communications Commission is more concerned about our public safety agencies' ability to provide quality services to our citizens, than their commercial and private gains.

It is the request of the Monroe Police Department that you support the "balanced approach" for a better America.

Sincerely,



Evelyn B. Robinson

Chief of Police

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