



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THOMAS M. MENINO

October 6, 2003

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell,

I write today to urge you to take action regarding the pressing problem of public safety interference in the 800 MHz spectrum.

As Mayor of a city of more than 500,000 people, I know how important it is, in times of emergency and everyday, for our public safety officials to be able to communicate clearly and reliably. Without the ability to communicate when they need to, our first responders place themselves and the safety of the communities they serve at risk.

In the state of Massachusetts, where interference related incidents have been reported in 9 of the state's 10 Congressional districts, public safety interference is an especially pervasive - and therefore, troubling - problem.

After researching the various proposed solutions, I feel that the Consensus Plan is the only viable solution to alleviate the problems of interference in the public safety spectrum. The Consensus Plan also provides additional spectrum to public safety and offers a future platform for communications networks that are needed to protect our communities. Perhaps most important to my constituents, this plan is fully funded and will not impose any burden on the taxpayer community.

The alternative plans, while admirable efforts, seem to stop short of the proactive and comprehensive approach of the Consensus Plan.

It is for that reason that I would like to go on the record in support of the Consensus Plan as the solution to the ongoing interference problem in the 800 MHz band.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston

cc: Commissioner Abernathy
Commissioner Adelstein
Commissioner Copps
Commissioner Martin

The Honorable Edward Kennedy
315 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Kerry D-MA
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510