



**CITY OF SAVANNAH**  
**Bureau of Fire and Emergency Services**

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October 30, 2003

Marlene Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Madam Secretary:

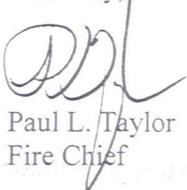
As chief of the Savannah Fire Department, it is my charge to uphold the trust of the communities and people I proudly protect. As such, the ability to respond efficiently and effectively to emergencies is critically important. Right now, communications are compromised because of interference to first responders' radios. Luckily, there is a solution that will virtually eliminate this interference problem: The Consensus Plan.

The Consensus Plan is fully consistent with the state of readiness and the public trust that first responders champion every day. Adoption of the Plan will eliminate the persistent and dangerous problem of ever-increasing numbers of cell phones interfering with our communications systems. Equally important, the Plan gives first responders additional spectrum for clear, reliable communications and a future platform for communications networks required to protect the communities we serve.

Existing alternatives to the Consensus Plan are short-sighted reactive solutions that reduce first responders' effectiveness and put lives at risk.

The Consensus Plan solves the economic, technical and policy problems associated with CMRS interference to public safety communications – and it also creates much-needed additional spectrum available for public safety. By approving this plan, the FCC will be acting in the best interests of our society and putting public safety first. Continued inaction risks the lives of our fellow fire fighters, police officers, emergency response personnel as well as the public we serve.

Sincerely,



Paul L. Taylor  
Fire Chief

c: Representative Max Burns