



Mobile Fire – Rescue Department



Michael C Dow
Mayor

Stephen Dean
Fire Chief

DEC 24 2003

December 17, 2003

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

Re: Docket No. 02-55 (Improving Public Safety in the 800 Megahertz Band)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Mobile Alabama Fire Rescue Department supports the Consensus Plan before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and urges the FCC to approve the proposal referenced above.

The Consensus Plan will realign the current co-mingled licensing of 800 MHz systems into separate blocks of spectrum, dividing public safety and cellular wireless carrier users, and eliminate the harmful garbled, distorted communication and interference that occurs now. In addition, public safety will receive additional spectrum to help us meet our communications needs and meet our increasing post 9-11-01 critical missions.

The need for firefighters to be able to quickly and effectively communicate in times of crisis is very vital to our ability to protect our citizens. This is an important firefighter safety and survival issue and we need for the FCC to cast aside the parochial interests of greedy corporations that are working against public safety and delaying a decision in this issue for their own benefit.

The FCC Chairman told us this summer that this is a top priority at the FCC and that a decision would come soon. It is time for the FCC to approve this Plan and get rid of interference.

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The Consensus Plan is the only proposal before the FCC that answers the needs of first responders, it is the only plan that has the support of America's leading public safety organizations and is the only plan that won't cost our Fire and Emergency Medical Services, the City of Mobile or America's taxpayers any money.

The FCC needs to act now to eliminate this risky problem.

Truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen A. Dean". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Stephen A. Dean

Fire Chief

Mobile Fire Rescue Department

President Southeastern Fire Chief's Association

cc: Mayor Dow

Mr. Stokes, Chief of Staff

Mr. Cashdollar, Public Safety Director