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January 6, 2004

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20054

Re: WT Docket 02-55, improving Public Safety
Communications in the 800 MHz Band

Dear Chairman Powell:

This letter is intended to express the support of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas for the Consensus Plan to resolve the 800 MHz interference problem currently faced by the public safety community in this country.

The Sheriffs' Association of Texas was established in 1874 and provides training and support for Texas Sheriffs and other law enforcement officers in the State of Texas. Our Association is one of the oldest of its kind in the nation and is proud to count as active members, all 254 elected Sheriffs of Texas, some 3,000 other licensed law enforcement officers and over 60,000 associate members.

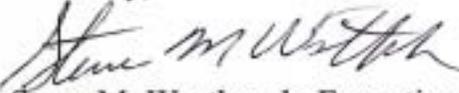
We have long recognized the serious issues concerning public safety communications interference problems, particularly those experienced in the 800 MHz band. The current practice of interleaving public safety, private and commercial users in the band has led to serious and potentially deadly interference problems in the public safety portions of the band. We believe the Consensus Plan currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission offers the most effective solution to the problem provided that cash strapped local public safety

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agencies are not stuck with the costs associated with re-banding. The Consensus Plan represents a proactive approach to solving interference problems in the 800 MHz band and should eliminate the need for the current reactive approach to solving the problem on a site by site basis after potentially disastrous interference has occurred.

We respectfully request that the Federal Communications Commission act promptly to eliminate the harmful interference plaguing our public safety providers in the 800 MHz band.

Sincerely,



Steve M. Westbrook, Executive Director
Sheriffs' Association of Texas

cc:

The Honorable Kathleen Q. Abernathy
The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein
The Honorable Michael J. Copps
The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
John Muleta, Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary