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*"Community Safety Through Regional Partnership"*

December 16, 2003

Secretary Marlene H. Dortch  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Docket No. 02-55: *"Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band"***

Dear Madame Secretary,

I am the Police Chief of Woburn; a city that is a mix of neighborhoods, industrial parks and wooded conservation areas such as the Horn Pond Reservation and Forest Park. The members of the Woburn Police Department are committed to providing the city's residents effective and efficient delivery of police services. Mobile communication is a key element in our ability to uphold this charge.

Therefore, it is troubling to hear of my first responder colleagues experiences with radio interference. Such a problem can come between a police officer on the front line of defense and the chain of decision-makers assisting in an emergency situation.

This is a serious problem requiring a serious solution. Current mitigation tactics are not enough – instead of alleviating the aftermath, we should implement a real cure. The Consensus Plan embodies this proactive approach. The Plan proposes to realign the spectrum and give public

safety additional bandwidth. It also provides private funding – a key benefit for the public safety community, whose budgets are already over burdened.

I join my colleagues from the International Association of Chiefs of Police in supporting the only viable solution for interference: the Consensus Plan. I urge the Commission to do the same.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip L. Mahoney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "M".

Philip L. Mahoney  
Chief of Police

Copy: Congressman Ed Markey  
Senator Ted Kennedy  
Senator John Kerry  
FCC Chairman Michael Powell  
FCC Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy  
FCC Commissioner Kevin Martin  
FCC Commissioner Michael Copps  
FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein