



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Randy Leonard, Commissioner
1221 S.W. 4th Avenue, Room 210
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: (503) 823-4682
Fax: (503) 823-4019
randy@ci.portland.or.us

January 30, 2004

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

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

Re: Support for the Consensus Plan for 800 MHz Realignment
Ex Parte, WT Docket No. 02-55

Dear Ms. Dortch:

As the Portland City Commissioner-in-Charge of the Bureau of Emergency Communications I strongly encourage you to support the Consensus Plan for 800 MHz realignment.

First responders and the public are increasingly at risk because public safety radio communications are vulnerable to interference from cellular phones. As the frequency of cell phone use increases the risk of garbled or blocked police, fire, and other public communications escalates. As a retired Lieutenant in the Portland Fire Bureau I have witnessed first hand the impact this serious and potentially life-threatening problem has on public safety personnel and the citizens they serve.

The FCC has before it a Consensus plan that would address cellular/public safety radio interference problems. The FCC cannot resolve this issue on an after-the-fact, case-by-case basis as some have recommended. Responding in a piecemeal manner to the problems affecting time critical public safety services is not acceptable. A single interference incident can jeopardize the lives of emergency personnel and the lives of the public.

I urge the FCC to resolve the issues facing the public safety community and adopt the terms of the Consensus Plan.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Randy Leonard
City of Portland, Oregon