



# NEWPORT, R.I. POLICE DEPARTMENT

*"Police and Community - Partners in Excellence"*

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February 6, 2004

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

**RE: WT Docket No. 02-55 (Public Safety on 800 MHz Band)**

Dear Madame Secretary,

As the Chief of Police for Newport, Rhode Island, I know how critical seamless and reliable communication is for emergency response. We need everyone involved to know the problem, what they need to do, and what everyone else is doing. Interference to public safety radios in the 800 MHz band hinders first responders' ability to do just this. This not only endangers their lives, but also the communities they have vowed to protect.

Luckily, there is a solution to this plaguing problem: the Consensus Plan, which would realign the cluttered 800 MHz spectrum and give public safety its own dedicated portion. Realignment will virtually eliminate the interference problem and give public safety more radio spectrum for future communications needs. Perhaps equally important, the Consensus Plan is fully funded and will not tax the over-burdened public safety community.

I applaud Rhode Island Congressman Jim Langevin for bringing the national spotlight onto this problem and supporting a permanent solution through realignment. Now, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to do the same.

It's called the "Consensus Plan" for a reason: all the major public safety organizations, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, support it. I hope you will make a ruling in favor of the safety of first responders and the American public and approve the Consensus Plan.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles F. Golden".

CHARLES F. GOLDEN  
Chief of Police

CFG:lrt  
C: Senator Reed/Senator Chafee  
Representative Kennedy