



FALMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT



DAVID F. CUSOLITO
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE
750 MAIN STREET • FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS 02540-3297
TELEPHONE 508/457-2529 • FAX 508/457-2513

February 23, 2004

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

**WT Docket # 02-55: In the Matter of Improving Public Safety
Communications in the 800 MHz Band**

Dear Secretary Dortch,

I am deeply concerned about an issue affecting hundreds of public safety departments throughout the United States every day -- radio interference. My colleagues and I joined law enforcement because, ultimately, we want to keep our communities safe and make life better for its residents. Communication is critical to the efficiency and safety of every operation and, due to interference on public safety radios, officers are unable to adequately help and protect their communities.

As the Chief of the Falmouth Police Department, I am well aware of the importance of effective and reliable communication systems. There are 66 sworn officers in Falmouth that protect more than 100,000 residents throughout the year -- including the annual Falmouth Road Race with thousands of participants. With so many moving parts, police officers in Falmouth, and nationwide, rely on systematic approaches to ensure the success of each mission. If there is interference on a field officers radio inhibiting him from receiving or distributing critical information, this system breaks down and the citizens involved -- as well as the first responders -- are in jeopardy.

The Consensus Plan is the solution public safety needs. The Plan will eliminate interference and provide public safety with additional bandwidth. Furthermore, the Consensus Plan is privately funded, so it will not strain local budgets. The Falmouth Police Department joins the over 800 public safety organizations, local governments, Congressional officials and private citizens in support of the Consensus Plan.

"Your Police Department - Our Community"

The FCC has carefully studied the problem of interference for more than two years. With this comprehensive solution before you, which is widely supported by national and local public safety organizations throughout the country, I urge you to make the sensible decision by adopting The Consensus Plan. First responders need your help and leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cusolito", written in a cursive style.

Chief David Cusolito

CC: The Honorable Edward Kennedy
The Honorable John Kerry
The Honorable William Delahunt