

# *Town of Natick Police Department*



March 16, 2004

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

WT Docket #02-55 (Public Safety Interference in the 800 MHz Band)

Dear Secretary Dortch,

As the president of the Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council and the Chief of the Natick Police Department, I am in constant contact with chiefs and officers from the 38 municipalities throughout Massachusetts who protect more than 730,000 people every day. I have chosen to serve on the Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council and the Natick Police Department with the hopes that, in partnership with other Massachusetts' departments and communities, we can maintain peace, protect life and property, and provide professional law enforcement services to municipalities throughout the state.

Through my interaction with my fellow officers, I have become aware of a pervasive communications problem that is interfering with many public safety officers' ability to effectively serve Massachusetts' communities. 800 MHz interference has been affecting communities throughout the United States, including nine out of ten congressional districts in Massachusetts, for more than five years. With more than 1,000 reported cases of interference nationwide, this problem continues to affect new communities everyday. Thankfully, then public safety community has found a solution that solves the problem and meets our growing communications needs.

The Consensus Plan, submitted to the FCC in 2002, will realign the troubled 800 MHz spectrum so that public safety radio interference will be permanently eliminated, providing first responders with reliable communications systems. The Plan also provides additional spectrum for future communications requirements. In addition to solving the problem at its source and looking toward public safety's needs in the future, the Consensus Plan is fully and

privately funded. It truly is the only comprehensive solution before the FCC with its proactive methods that will not strain federal, state or local budgets.

I am proud to join the more than 900 public safety organizations, agencies and officials nationwide that support the Consensus Plan. First responders have joined together to support this solution because it provides public safety with reliable communications to effectively protect America's communities. I hope you will stand with those who serve municipalities, communities and neighborhoods nationwide and support the Consensus Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis R. Mannix". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Chief Dennis R. Mannix, President  
Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council