RetireSafe.org
Planting the Seeds for a Prosperous Retirement

April 5, 2004

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RetireSafe.org Seniors Call for FCC Action on the Consensus Plan

Dear Mr. Powell,

On behalf of RetireSafe.org's 250,000 member-supporters, we urge you to add your voice to those advocating the immediate implementation of the "Consensus Plan." After two years of deliberation, we believe it's time for the Federal Communications Commission to act to give first responders the interference-free 800 MHz radio spectrum they so desperately need.

When someone needs life saving attention, we simply assume that the police, fire fighters and ambulance response professionals have the tools they need to respond quickly and completely. However, recent events in many cities across America have caused us to realize this in not the case.

RetireSafe.org is deeply concerned about the ability of our nation's first responders to communicate quickly and clearly during times of emergency for elderly Americans. Currently, emergency medical technicians, police, and firefighters in life-or-death situations across our nation encounter interference that greatly hinders their response effectiveness. This interference renders them without the reliable and clear communications they need in times of crisis.

For this reason, we strongly request immediate approval of the Consensus Plan. Developed by the leadership of the public safety community, the Consensus Plan will realign the 800 MHz spectrum to create separate channel blocks so that otherwise incompatible public safety and commercial communications can operate, and still allow emergency personnel to aid seniors in urgent need of help. This plan comes with no cost to public safety agencies, governments, or the American taxpayer.

We are honored to participate with America's public safety professionals in supporting this plan. We hope you will join with us in urging approval of this much-needed solution to the life-threatening problem of public safety radio interference occurring in cities across America.

The growing problem of public safety mobile communications being interfered with by commercial wireless

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systems places our nation's emergency first responders and the American public at grave risk. We must have interference-free spectrum for public safety. It has taken far too long for the Consensus Plan to be acted upon. RetireSafe.org's senior supporters across America ask you to support the immediate implementation of the Consensus Plan. To do less endangers us all.

Sincerely,

Charles G. Hardin

Charles G. Hardin
President