

# FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION



LOCAL No. 36  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
of FIRE FIGHTERS



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April 28, 2004

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WT 02-55 (Public Safety Interference – 800 MHz Band)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing on behalf of the District of Columbia Fire Fighters Association, Local 36 of the International Association of Fire Fighters to call the Commission's attention to public safety radio interference – a growing problem affecting our nation's first responders and those whom we have sworn to serve.

Across the United States, public safety entities including fire, medical, police and emergency service groups, are being affected by 800 MHz interference – garbled, fuzzy or blocked calls over their radios – this problem occurs because public safety channels are intermingled among and adjacent to commercial channels. As you well know, clear communication is critical, especially in a life-threatening situation.

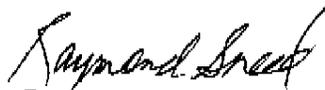
The members of the District of Columbia Fire Fighters Association support a proposal known as The Consensus Plan, to resolve the growing problem of public safety interference. The Consensus Plan is designed to eliminate interference to public safety communications and private wireless systems operating within the 800 MHz band by realigning the 800 MHz spectrum band. The Consensus Plan will require no federal, state or local funding to implement and provides public safety additional spectrum, which could be used to develop robust interoperable communication networks necessary to meet today's Homeland Security challenges.

The Consensus Plan is the only plan before the FCC that will proactively solve the problem of public safety interference. It's our understanding that the Commission has been studying this

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issue for over two years; the potential consequences of delaying this important decision are too great. We urge the Commission to make a swift decision on this critical matter and adopt the Consensus Plan.

Sincerely,



Raymond Sneed  
President

cc: The Honorable Michael Powell  
The Honorable Kathleen Abernathy  
The Honorable Jonathan Adelstein  
The Honorable Michael Copps  
The Honorable Kevin Martin