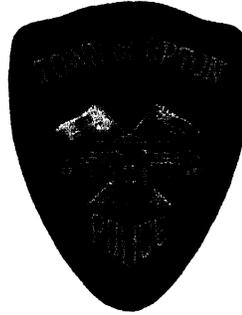


Police Department

Town of Upton

Chief Thomas B. Stockwell
508-529-3200
508-529-1012 Fax



Massachusetts

30 School Street
Upton, MA 01568

May 5, 2004

Secretary Marlene H. Dortch
FCC
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Secretary Dortch,

As a member of Massachusetts' public safety community, I am very concerned about a national problem that has steadily infiltrated our state borders and affected departments from Boston to the Berkshires. Public safety radio interference has been reported in nine out of ten congressional districts in Massachusetts. However, this issue is not confined to Massachusetts, or even the Northeast – more than one thousand cases of interference have been reported by public safety agencies nationwide. This is a national problem that requires a comprehensive solution.

The Consensus Plan is the answer and public safety needs to see it implemented before tragedy strikes. Hindsight is twenty-twenty, but we should not have to look back at the steps we could have taken to stop interference. The Consensus Plan is a proactive solution to eliminate interference and the Commission has the power to act. By realigning the 800 MHz spectrum, public safety departments will be able to operate their communications systems interference-free. Reliable communications systems are an integral component in keeping our communities – and our first responders – safe. The Consensus Plan will solve interference efficiently and effectively without placing any financial burden on public safety, government budgets or taxpayers.

Massachusetts stands behind the Consensus Plan, with thirty-four departments and organizations supporting the Plan in recent months. The Upton Police Department is proud to join our public safety brethren.

First responders strive to protect our communities and provide a safe environment in our neighborhoods every day. All we are asking is for the Commission to act, support the Consensus Plan, and stand with public safety. Together, we can implement change and work to improve communications for first responders as they work to improve America's communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas B. Stockwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "S".

Thomas B. Stockwell,
Chief of Police
Upton Police Department