

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED



CHATHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHATHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02633-2099

(508) 945-1213 • (508) 945-2791 FAX



RECEIVED & INSPE  
MAY 24 2004  
FCC-MAILR

OFFICE OF  
KEVIN P. FITZGIBBONS  
CHIEF OF POLICE

ORIGINAL

May 17, 2004

WT Docket # 02-55

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

Dear Madame Secretary,

The town of Chatham is on an isolated section of Cape Cod, primarily exposed to the ocean. The seclusion of the town and it's seashore draw many retirees and vacationers to the coast of Chatham and, while these environmental attributes have helped the town prosper, they have also posed unique challenges for the public safety community. The Chatham police and fire departments have had to adapt to the flux in summer residents and ocean dangers including strong weather systems and water safety, while responding to routine emergency calls.

The constantly changing conditions throughout the town of Chatham have pushed our department to intently focus on our safety procedures and improving response time during every operation. We have come to understand the importance of organization and communication. I am concerned, however, that radio interference might inhibit our operations in the future. The Chatham Police Department operates on an 800 MHz system and, knowing that other first responders are struggling with interference on a regular basis, this problem is a very real danger for the Chatham community.

I believe there is an answer. The Consensus Plan will solve this problem for public safety and their communities by separating the 800 MHz intermingled spectrum. By reshuffling licensing, public safety operators will be able to rely on their communications systems everyday, on every mission. This is obviously a precarious situation in need of a thorough solution and, thankfully, the Consensus Plan has been proposed.

While the Consensus Plan details the procedures of the retuning and realignment process, it also outlines a guaranteed funding mechanism so public safety will not have to pay for the costs of retuning and realignment. Knowing that public safety departments, in small towns and large cities alike, cannot pay for the implementation of the Consensus Plan, this is a very important element to any solution for interference.

More than one thousand public safety officials and departments have come together to support the Consensus Plan in the past year because it will solve the problem of interference once and for all, while providing funding for the process in it's entirety. First responders know this is a critical issue and we know that we need the Consensus Plan. I hope the Commission will join us in support of the Consensus Plan. The public safety community must be able to communicate effectively.

Sincerely

Chief Kevin Fitzgibbons  
Chatham Police Department

No. of Copies rec'd 0  
List ABCDE