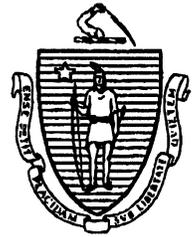




The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
County of Plymouth
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

24 Long Pond Road
 Plymouth, MA 02360
 Telephone: (508) 830-6200
 Fax: (508) 830-6316
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Joseph F. McDonough
 Sheriff

April 20, 2004

Matthew Hanley
 Special Sheriff

Accredited by



American Correctional
 Association



National Commission on
 Correctional Health Care

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

WT Docket Number 02-55

Dear Secretary Dortch,

Law enforcement, fire and EMS officials in Massachusetts have been struggling with frequent and severe occurrences of radio interference for far too long. This is a dangerous and potentially life-threatening situation for first responders and the communities they seek to protect. Radio interference is not isolated to Massachusetts; hundreds of departments throughout the country experience the same garbled, lost or dropped connections that are such a cause for concern. As the Sheriff of Plymouth County, Massachusetts, I believe it is imperative that we solve this dangerous problem before disaster strikes.

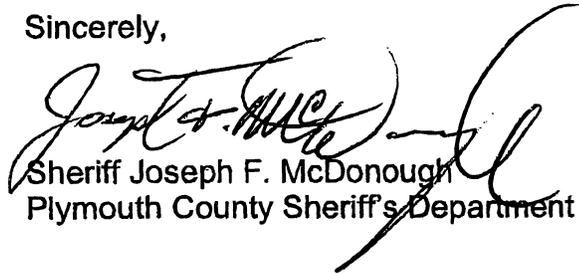
The Plymouth County Sheriff's Department employs more than 500 officers and civilians, which makes the department one of the largest employers in the county. With this large number of public safety officials, I understand the magnitude of the problem that such a communications impediment could produce. It is only a matter of time until we lose a public safety colleague who is unable to call for back-up, coordinate with fellow officers or receive instructions from the dispatcher.

Throughout the past year, Massachusetts' public safety departments, agencies and municipalities have been very vocal in support of the Consensus Plan as the only comprehensive solution for interference. The Plymouth County Sheriff's Department proudly joins our state colleagues and the National Sheriffs' Association in that support. The Consensus Plan is the needed solution: it proactively eliminates

interference by realigning the 800 MHz spectrum and is fully funded. Furthermore, it provides additional spectrum to public safety that supplies the necessary green space to make communications capabilities like interoperability a reality.

It's very simple: first responders need reliable communications systems free from interference. The Consensus Plan is the solution. I hope you will take this into consideration. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph F. McDonough". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end that extends to the right and slightly upwards.

Sheriff Joseph F. McDonough
Plymouth County Sheriff's Department