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Mayor

The City of REVERE, MASSACHUSETTS

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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May 26, 2004

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

RE: WT Docket Number 02-55

Dear Secretary Dortch,

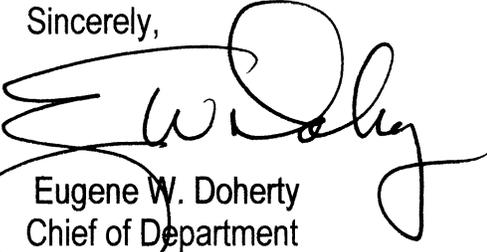
I am deeply concerned about the dangerous problem of public safety radio interference that is affecting Massachusetts' first responders. The threat is very real as it continues to spread to new municipalities and jeopardize first responders' lives every day. As you know, this problem is not unique to Massachusetts, however, with reported cases of interference stretching from east to west in 33 states.

Recently (05/06), I and 74 other Fire Chiefs from Massachusetts met with Congressman Edward Markey in Washington, DC. We discussed the hazardous of public safety radio interference situation that continues to get progressively worse every day. We came to a unanimous conclusion: first responders need a comprehensive solution. Thankfully, my colleagues at the International Association of Fire Chiefs, in conjunction with APCO, IACP and NSA worked together on behalf of the public safety community to submit the Consensus Plan in late 2002. This is the comprehensive solution that first responders need.

The Consensus Plan will proactively eliminate interference for first responders once and for all. This is the much-needed solution because it targets the root of the problem while providing additional communications capabilities that public safety will need in the near future. Equally important is that the Consensus Plan is fully funded so public safety; the government and American taxpayers will not have to shoulder the costs of the realignment and retuning process.

The Consensus Plan is widely supported by the public safety community in Massachusetts and the country as a whole. The Revere Fire Department joins the International Association of Fire Chiefs as well as the Revere Police Department and all of the Consensus Plan supporters nationwide who have come together to advocate for this comprehensive solution. I hope the Commission will join this support. Public safety needs a comprehensive solution for interference and we believe that public safety needs the Consensus Plan.

Sincerely,



Eugene W. Doherty
Chief of Department