



YARMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Committed To Our Community"

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Peter L. Carnes
Chief of Police

May 13, 2004

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

WT Docket # 02-55: 800 MHz Public Safety Interference

Madame Secretary,

It has recently come to my attention that my fellow law enforcement colleagues have been struggling with their communications systems because of a common and dangerous problem. Radio interference has been reported in nine out of ten congressional districts in Massachusetts and, on a national level, affects hundreds of police, fire and EMS officials every day. Quite frankly, to think that lives might be lost because of a communications hindrance is very real and chilling for chiefs and officers alike because we all depend on communications systems as a critical tool in protecting our communities.

In a recent meeting, I learned about the Consensus Plan and am convinced this is the solution we need. The Consensus Plan realigns the spectrum to give public safety our own plot of land in the 800 MHz spectrum that is currently shared with commercial wireless companies. This process will eliminate interference on the 800 MHz band while providing additional spectrum for public safety that will soon be needed for advanced communications capabilities. Additionally, public safety departments and agencies will only benefit from the implementation of this solution because it is also fully and privately funded. It is clearly the only solution that accounts for all of these factors.

Public safety must have a comprehensive solution that is readily available to be implemented before tragedy strikes. The Consensus Plan is laid out before the Commission and public safety's support has been dedicated, with more than 1,000 public safety advocates. On behalf of the Yarmouth Police Department and the Consensus Plan supporters nationwide, I hope that you will join us in support of the Consensus Plan to eliminate interference. We need your help to solve this dangerous problem once and for all.

Sincerely,

Chief Peter L. Carnes
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