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CITY OF CAMPBELL POLICE DEPARTMENT

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TO: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy, Commissioner Michael J. Copps,
 Commissioner Kevin J. Martin, Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
 Federal Communications Commission

FAX#:

FROM:
 City Manager
 Santa Clara County/Cities Managers' Association

Message: See attached None

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May 25, 2004

CITY OF CAMPBELL
City Manager's Office

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JUN 23 2004

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WT Docket No. 03-66 - ITFS Spectrum

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Clara County Police Chiefs Association, the Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association, and the Santa Clara County/Cities Managers' Association here in the Silicon Valley to bring your attention to what we believe to be a potential risk to public safety. It is our understanding that a proposal from the Wireless Bureau is being circulated for rushed FCC consideration that, if approved, would essentially eliminate the eligibility restrictions on the Instructional Television Fixed Service (ITFS) spectrum and reduce the amount of spectrum held by each ITFS licensee in order to accommodate new commercial users in the band.

For many years now, San Jose State University (SJSU) has been licensed to use ITFS channels in the 2.5 GHz band to transmit instructional programming to students in our schools. The advent of new technologies and the prospect of band plan and rule changes requested by the ITFS community promise new digital educational services that will enhance our service to students and the community.

ITFS is currently the only spectrum specifically allocated to support formal education. Just three years ago, the FCC promised to protect this vital educational asset. One might ask what possible compromise of public safety could come from a reduction in spectrum to educational institutions? It is our belief that the potential risk is great.

For several years, more than 30 First Responder agencies in Santa Clara County, California, have been working collaboratively to address interoperability issues. Like law enforcement and fire agencies from across the nation, the Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Project (SVRIP) has been searching for solutions to help protect our communities, communicate more effectively, and respond more efficiently in this changing world. Stakeholders in the SVRIP are in the unique position to be able to leverage the lightning-fast, web-based technologies that are commonplace in the private sector throughout Silicon Valley. We have partnered with Northrop Grumman Corporation to architect a network to achieve seamless interoperability amongst and between our first responders and provide SJSU with on- and off-campus educational access. This partnership has already resulted in a comprehensive plan to guide the stakeholder agencies to a unique multi-phased interoperable communications system.

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