



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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Executive Director

April 20, 2010

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing 241,000 rank-and-file law enforcement officers from across the United States, I am writing to request that the Federal Communications Commission's recommendation in the National Broadband Plan (NBP) be amended so that the 700 MHz D Block is reallocated to public safety. This is necessary to ensure that our local, state and federal first responders have unrestricted access to a nationwide broadband network that will allow them to effectively respond to critical events.

NAPO believes that the NBP falls short of making certain that public safety has an interoperable mobile broadband network to support not only everyday first responder activities, but also emergency prevention and response. In these tough economic times, it is not practical to believe that there will be a consistent funding source to build out the nationwide network if the D Block is auctioned off for commercial purposes. Allocating the D Block to public safety is the only way to ensure a reliable, robust broadband network that meets the needs of a modern first responder community.

The 9/11 Commission specifically recognized the importance of allotting designated spectrum for first responders to use for interoperable communications. The September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center, and later the natural disaster of Hurricane Katrina, demonstrated how critical it is for first responders to be able to communicate with each other in order to protect our nation's communities and themselves.

Therefore, NAPO urges you to recognize that this is the time to develop a nationwide interoperable network and to support the reallocation of the D Block to public safety. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or NAPO's Government Affairs Director, Andrea Mournighan, at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director