



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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EXECUTIVE OFFICERS September 10, 2020

MICHAEL McHALE
President

Florida Police Benevolent
Association

Mr. Ajit Pai

Chairman

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, SW

Washington, D.C. 20554

JOHN A. FLYNN
Vice President

Police Benevolent
Association of New York City

TODD HARRISON
Recording Secretary

Combined Law Enforcement
Associations of Texas

RE: WP Docket No. 07-100, Amendment of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules

Dear Mr. Chairman,

SCOTT HOVSEPIAN
Treasurer

Massachusetts Coalition
of Police

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I am writing in response to the Sixth Report and Order - WP Docket No. 07-100 issued on September 9, 2020 regarding "Expanding Access to and Investment in the 4.9 GHz Band". NAPO believes this proposal would negatively impact public safety communications on the 4.9 GHz Band.

MARC KOVAR
Sergeant-at-Arms

New Jersey State Policemen's
Benevolent Association

CRAIG D. LALLY
Executive Secretary

Los Angeles Police
Protective League

NAPO is a coalition of police unions and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's rank-and-file law enforcement through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 1,000 police units and associations, 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, and more than 50,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

MARK YOUNG
Vice President,
Associate Members

Detroit Police Lieutenants &
Sergeants Association

Public safety was given access to the 4.9 GHz broadband spectrum in 2002, in response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Since then, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has allocated 50 megahertz of the 4.9 GHz spectrum to public safety. However, this Report and Order promotes expanding the use of the spectrum beyond the public safety communications for which it is currently reserved by allowing states to lease the spectrum to commercial entities.

JAMES PALMER
Parliamentarian

Wisconsin Professional Police
Association

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE
Executive Director and
General Counsel

Expanding the use of the 4.9 GHz spectrum and forcing public safety to share the band risks lowering the quality of communications and the band no longer meeting the communications needs of first responders. It goes against the intent for giving public safety the 4.9 GHz spectrum in the first place, which was to ensure first responders have interoperable communications in order that federal, state and local public safety agencies can better communicate with each other, without interference, during disasters.

Protecting public safety's sole use of the 4.9 GHz spectrum will ensure first responders nationwide have access to the most technologically advanced communications capability so that when they are called upon to assist in a disaster, they have the tools necessary to protect our nation's communities and themselves.

Further, the implications of this Report and Order cannot be considered separately from the auction of the 470-512 MHz (T-Band) spectrum and the reallocation of public safety communications from that spectrum mandated by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. While the Commission has indicated its support for permitting public safety licensees to remain on the T-Band spectrum, Congress has yet to repeal its mandated auction of that spectrum. The loss of the T-Band on top of a weakening of the 4.9 GHz spectrum would be devastating to public safety communications and threaten to reduce first responders' communications capabilities back to pre-9/11 levels.

NAPO urges the Commission to not move forward with the Amendment to Part 90 of the Commission's Rules and maintain the 4.9 GHz solely for the use of public safety.

We appreciate your consideration. If NAPO can provide any additional information on our comments, please feel free to contact me at: (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Johnson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

William J. Johnson
Executive Director