

Media Contact:

Will Wiquist, (202) 418-0509
will.wiquist@fcc.gov

For Immediate Release

FCC FINES FLORIDA DRIVER \$48,000 FOR JAMMING CELLULAR & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS DURING WORK COMMUTE

WASHINGTON, May 25, 2016 – The Federal Communications Commission today issued a \$48,000 fine against Jason R. Humphreys for using a cell phone jamming device in his car during his daily work commute to and from Tampa, Florida. Mr. Humphreys’ illegal operation of the jammer continued for up to two years, caused interference to cellular service along Interstate 4, and disrupted police communications.

“This case highlights the danger posed to public safety by use of a single signal jamming device, which can disrupt all wireless and public safety communications in the area,” said Travis LeBlanc, Enforcement Bureau Chief. “These devices may not be used by the public under any circumstances.”

FCC Enforcement Bureau agents opened the investigation after receiving an interference complaint from a local wireless service provider. Using FCC equipment designed to detect the source of the interference, the agents identified Mr. Humphreys while he was using the jammer during his commute. Enforcement Bureau agents worked closely with the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office, whose officers stopped Mr. Humphreys’ vehicle while he was operating the jammer. In April 2014, the Commission proposed to fine Mr. Humphreys \$48,000 for illegal signal jamming. Mr. Humphreys failed to respond to the proposed fine. Today’s order fully affirms and imposes the \$48,000 fine.

It is a violation of federal law to market, sell, import, or use a signal jammer in the United States and its territories, except in very limited circumstances involving United States Armed Services or the United States Department of Justice. Cell and other signal jamming devices operate by transmitting radio signals that overpower, block, or interfere with authorized communications. Jammers are designed to impede authorized communications, thereby interfering with the rights of the general public and legitimate spectrum users. They may also disrupt critical emergency communications between first responders, such as public safety, law enforcement, emergency medical, and emergency response personnel. Similarly, jamming devices can endanger life and property by preventing individuals from making 9-1-1 or other emergency calls or disrupting communications essential to aviation and marine safety.

To report the sale or use of an illegal jammer, contact the FCC through the [FCC online complaint portal](#). Additional information, including the [FCC Consumer Alert](#) on the jamming prohibitions and the [FCC Enforcement Advisories](#) regarding illegal signal jammers, is available at www.fcc.gov/jammers.

Today's Forfeiture Order against Mr. Humphreys is available at:
https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-16-66A1_Rcd.pdf

The 2014 Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture against Mr. Humphreys is available at:
https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-14-55A1.pdf

###

Office of Media Relations: (202) 418-0500
TTY: (888) 835-5322
Twitter: @FCC
www.fcc.gov/office-media-relations

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).