

**STATEMENT OF JAMIE BARNETT, CHIEF OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY &
HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU OF THE FCC
BEFORE THE COMMISSION
January 25, 2011**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. Today you are taking action, a major action to ensure interoperability, action as foreseen in the National Broadband Plan, a vital part of the deployment of a public safety broadband network. Specifically, the item for your consideration today is an Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that will lay down an iron rule of interoperability which will save lives and protect first responders and the public for the foreseeable future. It will significantly advance communications interoperability for our Nation's first responders. The proposed item will enable public safety broadband users to share information, videos, photos and emails over robust, dedicated and secure mobile broadband networks across jurisdictions, departments and nationwide for day-to-day operations and during large-scale emergencies.

I would like note that we will be conducting an Interoperability Forum here at the Commission on March 4 and we encourage broad participation.

We would not have reached this milestone without the expert thought and hard work of many, both inside and outside of the Commission.

I would like to welcome our distinguished guests and partners from the public safety community who are here today. Several key leaders from the public safety community have taken their time to join us today for this major step. We value the input of the public safety community and I will witness that the item you have before you is better because of their expertise. I would ask you to stand and remain standing until I have called all the names:

- Bill Carrow, President of Association Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) and Communications Section Chief of the Delaware State Police,
- Gregg Riddle, First Vice President of APCO and Executive Director of West Suburban Consolidated Dispatch Center in River Forest, ILLINOIS
- Joe Hanna, former President of APCO
- Brian Fontes, CEO of Natl Emergency Number Association
- Harlin McEwen, Chairman of the Public Safety Spectrum Trust and a longtime leader in public safety communications
- Ralph Haller, Chair of NPSTC
- Chief Jeff Johnson, CEO of the Western Fire Chiefs Association and Retired Fire Chief of Oregon's Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue

Service (after 32 year career); he is also Past President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

- Deputy Chief Eddie Reyes of the Alexandria, VA Police Department, who has worked with SAFECOM and NPSTC
- Inspector Keith Spadaro , Exec. Officer, NYPD Communications Division

Thank you for your work for interoperability and for being here on this important occasion.

We have worked closely with our federal partners, with whom we share a strong desire and responsibility for interoperability in public safety communications. I am pleased to introduce:

Marisa Chun, Deputy Associate Attorney General at DOJ.

Joe Heaps, Deputy Director, Information and Sensor Technologies Division, at NIJ at DOJ.

Jeanette Manfra, Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency Communications at DHS

Lance Johnson, Program Officer at NTIA.

- In addition, I would like to recognize Bureau and Commission staff who worked on this item:
 - Deputy Bureau Chief David Furth
 - Erika Olsen
 - Pat Amodio
 - Dr. Behzad Ghaffari
 - Yoon Chang
 - Walter Johnson
 - Tom Peters, Wireless
 - Roberto Mussenden
 - Jason Kim
 - Brian Hurley
 - Susan McLean
 - Deandrea Wilson
 - Gene Fullano
 - Michael Ha, OET
 - Dr. Henning Schulzrinne, Columbia University and Engineering Fellow here
 - Ziad Sleem, Wireless
 - And I especially appreciate the leadership, dedication and energy of Jennifer Manner, Deputy Bureau Chief and Acting Director of ERIC, in getting us to this point.
- I now turn the floor over to Jennifer Manner.