

**Testimony of Commissioner Paul J. Cosgrave
City of New York, Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications
FCC *En Banc* Hearing, New York, 7/30/08
Public Safety Interoperable Communications and the 700 MHz D Block Proceeding**

Good morning Chairman Martin and Commissioners Adelstein, Cops, Tate and McDowell. As New York City's Chief Information Officer and Commissioner of the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, I am pleased to address you today on the forward-looking technology plans that New York City has developed to maximize wireless service capabilities for our first responders.

The City of New York is committed to pursuing a long-term roadmap for wireless voice and broadband data services that will continue to deliver enhanced features and services to our first responders. Our experience tells us this commitment can be met by public safety agencies—without compromising the security, reliability and redundancy requirements that are an essential part of mission-critical wireless communications—only through the development of dedicated private networks.

That said, any attempts to compromise these requirements as a means to promote interest in a public-private partnership for the deployment of a nationwide broadband wireless network in 700MHz frequency band, will serve to further delay the deployment of a next-generation public safety wireless infrastructure. It is the City of New York's opinion that the nation's cities will not willingly move their critical first responder wireless voice or data communications to a nationwide network with "degraded" security, reliability and redundancy characteristics. Furthermore, it is unclear which voice and data applications will be capable of operating in such a diminished environment. In addition, it should be clearly noted that the direct allocation of the 700 MHz narrowband portion of public safety spectrum made to States does in no way meet the high-volume, high-density requirements of urban areas.

Through direct allocation of the 20MHz of 700MHz band spectrum in the "public safety" broadband block" and the "D block" to public safety organizations, including New York City's Police and Fire departments, we believe the maximum spectral efficiency this band offers will be attained, while marking a significant milestone in the wireless roadmap for public safety communications. This 20MHz of contiguous spectrum presents an opportunity to both establish a model for next-generation wireless public safety voice and data technologies, and truly transform public safety communications. We also believe that with allocation of this spectrum to public safety, the vendor community will work to expeditiously deliver solutions that will maximize public safety investment in non-proprietary network equipment in this band.

A number of American cities have successfully demonstrated that municipalities prudently deploy mission-critical broadband wireless data networks that meet and exceed their coverage, throughput, reliability and interoperability requirements—without the need for a public-private nationwide network. New York City's proposal is to further build upon its own success in deploying a citywide broadband network by working with our neighboring jurisdictions and New York State by deploying a prototype, next-generation wireless network using the 20MHz of broadband spectrum available in the 700MHz bands.

This prototype would demonstrate the range of applications that a next-generation network would bring to emergency responders and set an interoperable broadband model for the rest of the country.

Evidenced by the City's deployment of the New York City Wireless Network "NYCWiN", the City has demonstrated a commitment and ability to focus on forward-looking public safety wireless technology. Much of this technology is global in nature and follows worldwide standards such as emerging "LTE". The City understands and supports the direction of the wireless industry toward this technology platform that encourages worldwide competition.

By selecting forward-looking technology for NYCWiN, the City clearly recognizes that wireless network equipment providers are focused on the applicability of their solutions worldwide, and that it is in our best interest to ensure compatibility with widely-adopted global standards. We continue to leverage the technical expertise of the industry, evaluate industry trends and ensure that our successful next-generation mobile broadband deployment on NYCWiN can maximize the City's spectrum allocation, and existing deployed assets, while maximizing our service capabilities for our first responders. The same commitment exists for the 700MHz spectrum, if allocated to New York City as we request.

Finally, why should New York City be chosen for to be such a nationwide role-model? I respectfully submit that only New York City can demonstrate a municipal model that can be applied nationally. Indeed, the following factors uniquely position the City as the optimum testing ground for this strategy:

- Size – with over 50,000 first responders, 8 million citizens, 300+ square miles of land and 600 miles of shoreline, our deployment would be unmatched to any other city in the United States;
- Varied topographies – our 300+ square miles brings together a collection of diverse topographies from across the continental United States into a single municipality. From urban areas and skyscraper canyons of Manhattan and downtown Brooklyn, to suburban and residential areas of Staten Island, eastern Queens, and the Rockaways, few cities can match our diverse landscape;
- Existing infrastructure – our base NYCWiN network is already built using state-of-the-art, flexible IP-based technology and designed to accommodate future technologies. We have successfully overcome the challenges of site selection, special permits and construction, while meeting the requirements of our mission critical network. Our prototype of 700MHz services is just an extension on the infrastructure we have already built, and puts us ahead of other cities and local municipalities in taking on such a proposal;
- Additional considerations – these 700 MHz channels, due to their lower frequencies, can help New York City further address in-building coverage issues in the area of voice and data. Addressing this challenge for our first responders is one of City's foremost objectives.

Thank you for your time and continued attention to this vital matter. I will be pleased to answer any of the Commission's questions at the conclusion of this panel.