

# **A Resolution Regarding Public Safety Broadband Communications**

**Offered by:**

**The International Association of Fire Chiefs**

Whereas, our fire, emergency medical, law enforcement and other emergency professionals must have access to the most modern and reliable communications capabilities that the nation offers so they can communicate with each other and with federal officials across agencies and geography during emergencies, and

Whereas, the ability for public safety to have seamless nationwide roaming capability on a wireless broadband network, hardened to public safety requirements, is essential and achievable for public safety to meet its ever increasing responsibilities, and

Whereas, this goal will be achieved only if the public safety community has priority access to a nationwide, interoperable, shared wireless broadband network that incorporates the latest technologies utilized by the private sector, and

Whereas, the public safety community, working with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and industry representatives, has developed a proposal to create such a network, based upon public sector/private sector partnerships, and

Whereas, in November 2007 the FCC issued to the Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST) a nationwide Public Safety Broadband License (PSBL) for 12 MHz of broadband spectrum in the upper 700 MHz band which is part of the allocation to public safety by Congress and the FCC in 1997 and made available June 12, 2009, and

Whereas, the current model outlined in the FCC's Second Report and Order of July 31, 2007, includes language that will provide for the PSBL to enter into leases of spectrum usage rights with commercial owners/operators of the D Block spectrum, adjacent to the public safety broadband spectrum, to build a nationwide public safety shared wireless broadband network that would be paid for by commercial operators and not by the public safety community or the taxpayers, and

Whereas, in early 2008 the FCC conducted Auction 73 where all of the 700 MHz spectrum, with the exception of the D Block, was sold and then the FCC issued an order delaying any action on the D Block auction until further notice and since then no further rules have been released by the FCC, and

Whereas, in April and May 2009, representatives of eight major national public safety organizations met to discuss the next steps forward to building a nationwide public safety wireless broadband network and agreed to support congressional action to direct the FCC to remove the D Block from auction and to allocate it directly to public safety as part of the nationwide Public Safety Broadband License (PSBL) now held by the PSST,

Therefore, it is resolved that the National Advisory Committee to the Congressional Fire Services Institute urges Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to continue their efforts to enhance public safety interoperable communications and encourages Congress to consider a proposal to remove the D Block from auction and allocate it directly to public safety as part of the nationwide Public Safety Broadband License (PSBL).