



2010-2

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION URGES CONGRESS TO INTRODUCE AND ENACT LEGISLATION TO ALLOCATE THE D BLOCK SPECTRUM IN THE 700MHz TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND PROVIDE ANNUALLY RECURRING AND DEDICATED FUNDING TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN THE NATIONWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY BROADBAND NETWORK

WHEREAS, there is a need among our country's local, tribal, state and federal government agencies for the additional D block spectrum to build a robust mobile wireless broadband network that will improve our nation's homeland security and provide first responders with new interoperable communications technologies that are urgently needed;

WHEREAS, the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) is a member of the Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST), a not-for-profit organization consisting of representatives of fifteen national public safety organizations; and the PSST holds the nationwide Public Safety Broadband License (PSBL) for 10MHz of broadband spectrum in the 700MHz band;

WHEREAS, the NSA is supporting legislation to reallocate an additional 10MHz of spectrum in the 700MHz band, known as the "D Block," to public safety and to provide for dedicated and sustained funding to build a nationwide public safety interoperable mobile broadband network;

WHEREAS, the additional 10MHz of spectrum will be combined with the current 10MHz of broadband spectrum that is allocated to public safety to create a 20MHz block of spectrum to build a nationwide public safety interoperable broadband network;

WHEREAS, recent government and other studies have shown that public safety will not be able to obtain the necessary bandwidth and speed for our current and future needs based on 10MHz of broadband spectrum alone;

WHEREAS, when built, the new public safety broadband network will be able to support a wide range of public safety, government, critical infrastructure and consumer applications such as voice, video, and internet services;

WHEREAS, such applications include: transmitting high resolution pictures and building blueprints; on-the-scene telemedicine services; emergency vehicle telematics, such as GPS tracking; incident command and control operations; two-way video conferencing; video monitoring and broadcast services; first responder health monitoring equipment; emergency management programs; large scale evacuation management; public alerting and alarm services; and enabling next generation 9-1-1;

WHEREAS, the mobile broadband network will also enable our local, tribal, state and federal public safety agencies to provide more cost effective services to their communities and save millions of dollars in the efficient delivery of next generation technologies; and the envisioned public/private partnership will also provide much needed public safety as well as commercial broadband service to rural America;

WHEREAS, next generation technologies hold the promise to significantly improve the emergency communications capabilities of local, tribal, state and federal public safety agencies; and adequate spectrum and funding are the keys to achieving this necessary goal;

WHEREAS, the NSA is working to establish the appropriate spectrum and monetary policy framework that will revolutionize the way our first responders and local, tribal, state and federal governments are able to communicate for decades to come;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association requests Congress introduce and enact legislation to allocate the D block spectrum of the 700MHz spectrum to the public safety community to support the nation's first responders who put their lives on the line every day to protect and serve their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association requests Congress to provide an annually recurring and dedicated funding source to enable for the creation and maintenance of the nationwide public safety wireless broadband network.

Adopted at a Meeting of the General Membership in Anaheim, CA on June 29, 2010.