



NSA Disappointed by the FCC Order that would Compromise Public Safety

Alexandria, VA – The National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) is disappointed by the Federal Communications Commission's announced vote to move the 4.9 Spectrum to the First Net Authority. NSA Executive Director and CEO Jonathan Thompson released the following statement:

“The Ruling and Order of the 4.9Ghz spectrum licenses and usage demonstrates the misguided and irresponsible Federal Communications Commission fixation on cherry picking of profits over performance.

This decision, left unchanged or rejected, will become fodder for the lawyers and powerful lobbyists to recover their financial bounties. AT&T smartly, and without its duty to community, chose to seek free and unregulated spectrum over public safety. Rather than identifying and seeking a compromise, as Sheriffs and Chiefs sought, the four voting commissioners have sided with a giveaway. Thus, reducing transparent oversight and seamless performance of critical public safety spectrum management.

Their conclusion will result in litigation and petty arguments with an outcome that will irreparably harm our communities. The Commission has ignored the overwhelming and compelling facts in the record and chose a high-risk and dangerous scheme

The record is clear, there is lacking performance at FirstNet. FirstNet/AT&T continues to rely on the existing bandwidth of AT&T, not the band 14 granted to FirstNet. This decision incentivizes and reinforces bad performance. Sheriffs and their public safety communications capabilities are placed in a severely hindered environment.

The Courts and Congress now must do the job this Commission chose not to take on. This giveaway is an awful decision against the interests of Sheriffs, but it is a win for Ma-Bell!”

The National Sheriffs' Association is one of the largest non-profit associations of law enforcement professionals in the United States, representing more than 3,000 elected Sheriffs across the nation, and with a total membership of approximately 10,000 individuals. NSA is dedicated to raising the level of professionalism among Sheriffs,

their deputies, and others in the field of law enforcement, public safety, and criminal justice. Throughout its eighty-four-year history, NSA has also served as an information resource for all law enforcement, as well as local, state, and federal government agencies.

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