



January 12, 2010

AT&T Reiterates Support for Public Safety and Efforts to Create Interoperable Broadband Network

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, several members of the public safety community convened in Washington to urge policymakers to take critical steps that will facilitate the creation of an interoperable broadband network for public safety professionals. AT&T issued the following statement in support of public safety’s efforts:

“AT&T strongly supports the public safety community’s goal of having local control of building, owning, and operating broadband networks that will evolve into a national interoperable public safety ‘network of networks’. Seamless voice and data communications is critical to protecting the public in the event of an earthquake, hurricane, act of terrorism, or other disaster to occur in our country.

“It is therefore imperative that Congress reallocate the 700 MHz D-Block spectrum for use by public safety. This spectrum is public safety’s last opportunity for building a cost effective, interoperable broadband network. Congress should also allow public safety to use new or existing grant programs to fund the purchase of equipment and managed broadband services. The FCC, meanwhile, should endorse LTE, or Long Term Evolution, as the standard technology for public safety broadband networks. Further, the federal agency should establish minimum network standards to ensure interoperability and grant 20 MHz broadband licenses to local or regional public safety applicants wishing to begin build out of their networks. Finally, wireless carriers can assist public safety by developing devices utilizing Band 14 chipsets that support the LTE standard.

“With the combined efforts of Congress, the Federal Communications Commission, wireless carriers and device manufacturers, the goal of creating an interoperable broadband network with high bandwidth technologies for first responders and other public safety professionals can become a reality.”

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