



# CITY OF HOUSTON

Information Technology

**Bill White**

Mayor

Tom Sorley  
Deputy Director  
611 Walker, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002

T. 832-393-9611  
F. 832-393-9483  
[www.houstontx.gov](http://www.houstontx.gov)

June 7, 2007

Marilyn Ward, Executive Director  
National Public Safety Telecommunications Council  
8191 Southpark Lane, Unit 205  
Littleton, CO 80120

Mrs. Ward:

It is our privilege today to congratulate NPSTC on an important effort to seek public comment on the NCC's Interoperability Channel Naming proposal, arrive at an acceptable compromise during an amazing show of consensus building at a meeting in Orlando on February 5, 2007 and then publicly vet the final report of that meeting during the intervening months. The results of the consensus efforts almost completely change the naming convention we had in place for the State of Texas. However, as is the nature of consensus, we believe that it is more important to reach agreement on a naming convention than insisting that it be our naming convention.

The City of Houston is the fourth largest city in the nation. We have over 25,000 first responders in the City of Houston. All of the close to 50,000 radios in our region will need to be reprogrammed to adhere to this new nomenclature. Although this is a daunting task, we plan to accomplish it over the next several years. We have been following the comments of those that believe their version of names would be better than the consensus version. Maybe they are right. However, at some point we must put these differences aside and agree to something or we will still be trying to arrive at a standard years from now. Our first responders deserve to have this simple issue resolved now. We urge others to put aside their differences and agree to this standard as it was arrived at through the use of an open, consensus seeking process.

Changing to this new naming convention will be no easy task but the time has come to solve this issue. Our first responders often compare channel names on their radios to determine a means to interoperate. They should not have to know the frequencies or other technical things behind the names in order to have a successful interoperable experience.

Again, we applaud NPSTC for conducting this process and hope that one day the FCC will mandate the default names of interoperability channels into all radios manufactured. Then and only then will we truly be finished with this important issue.

Sincerely,

Tom Sorley  
Deputy Director