



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION APPLAUDS PRESIDENT OBAMA'S STRONG SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND D BLOCK ALLOCATION

Alexandria, VA – Today, President Obama, speaking at Northern Michigan University, in Marquette, MI, pledged his support for the allocation of the D Block to public safety for the creation of a nationwide public safety mobile broadband network, as well as the funding necessary to implement and operate the network.

The President's support for this vital new broadband network will provide nationwide broadband services to public safety throughout the United States for the first time. Additionally, President Obama's speech called for swift action to provide broadband services to those living and working in rural America who, today, do not have broadband access. The combination of the public safety broadband network and the build-out for rural broadband will provide new opportunities, as well as enable the public safety community to provide services to their communities in a more effective and efficient manner.

"The National Sheriffs' Association applauds President Obama for his strong support of our nation's first responders, and we are extraordinarily grateful to the President and his Administration for recognizing the significant need to allocate the D Block to public safety for the creation and implementation of this critical public safety network," stated Story County, IA Sheriff Paul H. Fitzgerald, First Vice President of the National Sheriffs' Association and NSA's representative on the Public Safety Alliance (PSA). "In times of emergency, it is essential that public safety have dedicated spectrum which is available on a nationwide basis to provide interoperable communications for all of our first responders not only during major emergencies but also on a day-to-day basis. The nation's sheriffs now call upon both Chambers of Congress to swiftly pass existing legislation to allocate the D Block to public safety and provide the funding necessary to build this network."

National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) is the one of the largest association of law enforcement professionals in the United States, representing more than 3,000 elected sheriffs across the nation, and a total membership of more than 20,000. NSA is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising the level of professionalism among sheriffs, their deputies, and others in the field of criminal justice and public safety. Throughout its seventy-year history, NSA has served as an information clearinghouse for sheriffs, deputies, chiefs of police, other law enforcement professionals, state governments and the federal government.

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