



2018-10

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS PROTECTION OF SPECTRUM USED IN SUPPORT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS, our nation, communities and public safety continue to face a serious threat of violent crime, drug crises, and terrorists threats; and

WHEREAS, the National Sheriffs' Association is a national leader in the effort to lead, protect, and serve our communities and is committed to doing our part to keep our people and communities safe and secure, and;

WHEREAS, America's law enforcement community must continue to have at its disposal the necessary communications tools and associated wireless spectrum to support mission critical prevention and response activities; and

WHEREAS, Multiple bands of wireless spectrum needed by public safety are at risk of being reallocated or shared with consumer use; and

WHEREAS, Section 6103 of Public Law 112-96 passed in February 2012 requires the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to reallocate and auction the Public Safety T-Band spectrum in the 470-512 MHz band and remove public safety operations from the band; and

WHEREAS, some members of Congress have sponsored or co-sponsored bill H.R.5085 to repeal Section 6103 of Public Law 112-96 to the benefit of public safety and the public it protects; and

WHEREAS, the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network administered by the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) is essential for broadband mobile data, but is not expected to be a substitute for proven mission critical voice systems for a number of years, if ever, and

WHEREAS, The FCC implemented a license freeze in the T-Band spectrum that prevents public safety and critical infrastructure entities from expanding current T-band operations to meet operational needs; and

WHEREAS, the law enforcement and related public safety communities relies on the 4.9 GHz band to support 24/7 connections to fixed surveillance cameras increasingly necessary for law enforcement protection of the public and for secure WiFi networks not shared with consumers; and

WHEREAS, certain FCC Commissioners have publicly expressed a strong interest in reallocating the 4.9 GHz (4940-4990 MHz) Public Safety spectrum for commercial use; and

WHEREAS, the FCC is considering allowing unlicensed consumer operations in the 6 GHz microwave band (5.925-6.425 GHz) relied on by the nation's law enforcement and other public safety entities, utilities, railroads and other key users for links between critical fixed locations; and

WHEREAS, the reliability of spectrum sharing mechanisms being considered by the FCC for the 6 GHz band have yet to be proven; and

WHEREAS, the FCC repeatedly highlights the benefit of making spectrum available to accommodate the seemingly insatiable desire for commercial licensed and unlicensed broadband use by consumers; and

WHEREAS, the FCC's focus on accommodating the data-centric desires of consumers cannot be allowed to override more essential considerations of public safety and other critical users;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association encourages the Congress to complete repeal of Section 6103 of Public Law 112-96 expeditiously, as addressed in H.R. 5085; and

FURTHER RESOLVES that the National Sheriffs' Association encourages the FCC to lift its licensing freeze in the T-band spectrum; and

FURTHER RESOLVES that the National Sheriffs' Association encourages Congress and the FCC to seriously consider existing and prospective public safety operations in the 4.9 GHz band spectrum before making further decisions on the band; and

FURTHER RESOLVES that the National Sheriffs' Association encourages the FCC to ensure full protection of 6 GHz band public safety and other critical operations from interference that could occur from opening the band to unlicensed consumer use.

Approved by the Board of Directors of the National Sheriffs' Association on June 18, 2018, at the Annual Conference of the National Sheriffs' Association, New Orleans, Louisiana. This resolution to remain in effect until June 24, 2022, in accordance with Article XIII, Section 6 of the Constitution and Bylaws of the National Sheriffs' Association.