



National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives

Jessie Lee, Jr.
Executive Director

Ernest E. Green, III
National President

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The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executive (NOBLE) supports the reallocation of the D Block to public safety and the establishment of regulatory process and structure to construct a national interoperable mobile wireless broadband network that will improve our nation's homeland security and provide first responders with new voice, video, and data communications technologies that are urgently needed.

Our country's local, State, Tribal, and Federal law enforcement, fire, medical, and other emergency professionals must have access to the most modern and reliable wireless broadband technologies to communicate with each other and with federal officials across agencies and geography during emergencies. The ability for public safety to have seamless nationwide roaming capability on a wireless broadband network that is hardened to public safety requirements is achievable and essential for public safety to meet its ever increasing responsibilities.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is planning to address this issue again by the disposition of the D Block via auction. The first attempt by the FCC to auction the spectrum failed miserably. Public safety officials, service providers and infrastructure vendors agree that a more effective method would be to allocate the D Block directly to public safety organizations in order to create a national broadband network that would meet the critical needs of first responders.

The additional 10 MHz of spectrum will be combined with the current 10 MHz of spectrum that is allocated to public safety to create a 20 MHz block of spectrum to build a nationwide public safety broadband network. When built, the new broadband network will be able to support a broad range of public safety, government, critical infrastructure and consumer applications such as voice, video, and data services.

The wireless broadband network will also enable state, local, and tribal governments to provide more cost effective services to their communities and save local and state governments millions of dollars in administering such programs as reading water meters and deploying smart grid technologies. The envisioned public/private partnership will also provide much needed public safety as well as commercial broadband service to rural America.

One of the top recommendations of the “9-11 Commission Report” was for Congress to “support pending legislation which provides for the expedited and increased assignment of radio spectrum for public safety purposes.”

We believe Congress must quickly pass legislation to allocate the D block spectrum to public safety, as proposed in legislation introduced by Congressman Peter King (R-NY) and Congresswoman Yvette Clark (D-NY) as HR5081 – Broadband for First Responders Act of 2010, and provide an annually recurring and dedicated funding source to build and maintain the nationwide public safety wireless broadband network. Our nation cannot afford to miss this one-time-only opportunity and we call on Congress to support our first responders who put their lives on the line every day to protect and serve their communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessie Lee". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Jessie Lee
Executive Director