

# Public Safety Needs Your Help Now

**Stop the D Block Auction by Contacting  
Your Congressional Representatives Today**



## **We Need 21st Century Tools Now**

The safety of Public Safety personnel and other first responders, as well as the security of our nation, requires 21st century tools. The FCC's commitment to the funding and building of a nationwide, interoperable Public Safety wireless broadband network represents a historic opportunity to advance the services available to Public Safety. The timing coinciding with the advances in commercial LTE networks is a great step forward in the introduction and cooperation of public and private networks. Losing the necessary spectrum, called the D Block, will make Public Safety vulnerable because Public Safety and other responders won't be able to implement much needed next generation technologies.

## **Contact your Representatives to Co-sponsor HR 5081, the Broadband for First Responders Act of 2010**

We need to make Congress aware of our concerns about the issues created by the D Block auction. They need to hear from us that the auction of this valuable spectrum will restrict our ability to keep our communities safe and it will increase the vulnerability of Public Safety personnel across the country.

## **Don't Leave Public Safety Vulnerable in the 21st Century**

Thorough evaluation by industry leading suppliers, experts, carriers and Public Safety agencies has established that offering the D Block for commercial auction will under-equip Public Safety in providing officer safety, protecting citizens and fighting 21st century crime. Despite the objections from Public Safety, the FCC plans to move forward with the auction unless Congress tells them to stop.

If the D Block is offered for auction and controlled by commercial carriers, the following results will occur:

### **Operational Issues**

- Lack of capacity for multi-agency operations or even low quality multimedia applications.
- D Block interference will result in communication holes for Public Safety users, threatening lives.
- Public Safety has demonstrated the need for additional spectrum, but the studies have been rejected by the FCC and directed them to roam on commercial carriers for additional spectrum. Accountability without control endangers lives.

### **Financial Considerations**

- The FCC cost estimates do not include the additional sites required to mitigate interference, carrier fees for high priority usage, roaming, and premium LTE service. The cost to deploy this network will be equivalent to a private deployment without the control required by Public Safety.
- The FCC proposal could end up costing taxpayers substantially more than using the D-Block because new equipment would have to be manufactured to meet disparate spectrum allocations and substantial changes to existing equipment would be necessary
- Elimination of free market play by forcing exclusive coordination with the D Block winner.

### **Impact to Public Safety**

- Loss of Public Safety control and priority during day-to-day and emergency incidents puts the commercial interests above that of Public Safety and other first responders.

### **NACO's Recommendation**

The commercial D Block should be rejoined with the Public Safety Spectrum Trust (PSST) allocation and dedicated to Public Safety to enable capacity for 21st century Public Safety broadband applications. This will ensure that interference and the resulting service holes are mitigated, full control and prioritization of broadband resources are available to Public Safety response, and a free market environment for competitive commercial services is encouraged.

### **Act Now and Call Your Congressional Representatives**

Contact your congressional representatives and ask them to co-sponsor HR 5081, the Broadband for First Responders Act of 2010, provide the funding as outlined in the plan and give the spectrum to Public Safety — to be controlled by Public Safety.