



**CITY OF PLANO  
COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM**

<b>CITY SECRETARY'S USE ONLY</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory				
Council Meeting Date:		12/13/2010		
Department:		Public Safety Communications		
Department Head		Ronald Timmons		
Agenda Coordinator (include phone #): <b>Trang Tran x7930</b>				
<b>CAPTION</b>				
A Resolution of the City of Plano, Texas, in support of reallocating the 700 MHz D Block to Public Safety for a nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network; authorizing the City Manager or his authorized designee to support; and providing an effective date.				
<b>FINANCIAL SUMMARY</b>				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE <input type="checkbox"/> OPERATING EXPENSE <input type="checkbox"/> REVENUE <input type="checkbox"/> CIP				
FISCAL YEAR:	<b>Prior Year (CIP Only)</b>	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Future Years</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
Budget	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Encumbered/Expended Amount	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
This Item	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
BALANCE	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
FUND(S):				
COMMENTS: This item has no fiscal impact.				
<b>SUMMARY OF ITEM</b>				
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Pat Miner via National League of Cities has requested Plano adopt a Resolution in support of reallocating the 700 MHz D Block to Public Safety for a nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network.				
List of Supporting Documents: 700 MHz D Block Information Sheet			Other Departments, Boards, Commissions or Agencies	

# Why Public Safety Needs the 700 MHz D Block

**The location of the D block offers a one-time opportunity to improve first responder communications and emergency response capabilities.**

**Allocating the D block to public safety would double the amount of spectrum available for first responder broadband communications, and represents less than two percent of the spectrum the FCC proposes to make available for commercial use.**

**Without the D block, first responder communications will continue to lack access to the technologies commercial customers take for granted.**

## ***To communicate quickly and securely in emergencies.***

Commercial wireless companies cannot and will not give first responders dedicated, secure access to their network during an emergency. First responders need a nationwide public safety broadband network when lives are at stake to ensure their messages go through quickly and securely.

## ***To reliably utilize modern technology that commercial customers take for granted.***

Most of us take for granted text messaging, sharing pictures and distributing videos via commercial wireless devices. First responders can only do this through commercial networks, which do not meet mission critical needs. First responders should be able to distribute and receive pictures, video and data in real-time from other officers, citizens and emergency dispatch systems.

## ***It is the right place for public safety.***

Existing research indicates that public safety needs at least 20 MHz of contiguous spectrum. This can only be achieved by combining the D block with the 10 MHz already allocated to public safety. Failure to reallocate the D block will drastically limit the bandwidth, and therefore the applications, first responders can utilize.

## ***Commercial networks are not reliable in emergencies.***

In disaster situations, customers clog commercial systems as they attempt to communicate with friends and loved ones, access information, and try to document the event online. This usage blocks first responders from reliably accessing the network. To protect life and property, first responders require what is referred to as “ruthless preemption” or the ability to kick commercial customers off the network. From a commercial provider standpoint, this is not an acceptable business practice. Therefore, efforts to provide priority to public safety on commercial networks will not meet public safety needs for assured access. Reallocating the D block would give public safety officials sufficient spectrum to utilize a variety of applications while also controlling access to the network during times of emergency. Providing public safety officials with priority access to commercial networks is insufficient and jeopardizes the public’s safety.

## ***With the D Block one device will do it all—across the entire nation.***

To date, public safety has been granted only small sections of spectrum over time, but never enough to consolidate communications into a single frequency band. This means that when multiple agencies respond to an event, they cannot communicate with each other because they each use radios that operate on different portions of the spectrum. Many police carry multiple radios just to ensure they can communicate with other responding agencies during emergencies. Giving public safety the D block would help end the need to utilize multiple communications systems which adds significantly to the cost and complexity of emergency communications.

## ***The D block will reduce costs.***

By providing a sufficient amount of contiguous spectrum, public safety will be able to team with commercial entities to utilize the most modern and reliable technologies for video and data communications today, and will be able to find new cost savings long-term through utilizing data communication between officers in the field for more effective and efficient policing and emergency response.

**A Resolution of the City of Plano, Texas, in support of reallocating the 700 MHz D Block to Public Safety for a nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network; authorizing the City Manager or his authorized designee to support; and providing an effective date.**

**WHEREAS**, sufficient dedicated broadcast spectrum that is free from interference is essential for municipalities' first responders to communicate during local, regional, and national emergencies; and

**WHEREAS**, public safety has been granted only small sections of spectrum over time, but never enough to consolidate communications into a single frequency band, resulting in a fragmented public safety spectrum that does not meet the need for nationwide interoperability in the post September 11<sup>th</sup> environment; and

**WHEREAS**, in the line of duty, first responders must be able to utilize mobile technologies citizens take for granted, such as: distributing and receiving pictures, video and data in real-time from other officers, citizens and emergency dispatch systems in order to achieve better policing and disaster response; and

**WHEREAS**, in emergency and disaster situations, commercial customers' usage slows and ultimately blocks first responders' access to commercial networks; and

**WHEREAS**, public safety authorities must have the ability to control when first responders need dedicated and secure access to a network; and

**WHEREAS**, the segment of 700MHz spectrum known as the "D Block" is uniquely positioned to provide a one-time opportunity to improve first responder communications and emergency response capabilities by providing sufficient broadband spectrum dedicated to first responders; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government has a responsibility to provide adequate telecommunications spectrum as to create a secure and dedicated Nationwide Public Safety Broadband communications network among public safety and emergency services.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PLANO, TEXAS, THAT:**

Section I. The City Council believes that:

1. The federal government must reallocate the 700 MHz D Block of spectrum to public safety for the purpose of building a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband communications network;
2. The Department of Commerce, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Communications Commission must

work directly with representatives of state and local governments to ensure an appropriate governance model for the D Block of spectrum;

3. The federal government must ensure that municipalities are included in all nationwide interoperability planning efforts; and
4. The federal government must work with both state and local governments to build the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband communications network and ensure affordable access to the equipment necessary for its use.

Section II. The City Manager or his authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute any documents necessary to effectuate this position.

Section III. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage.

**DULY PASSED AND APPROVED** this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2010.

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Phil Dyer, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Diane Zucco, CITY SECRETARY

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Diane C. Wetherbee, CITY ATTORNEY