



## Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, Inc.

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August 29, 2006

The Honorable Chairman Kevin J. Martin  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW, Room 8-B201  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin,

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association (VFCA) is a not for profit, service oriented organization founded in 1930 by progressive fire chiefs from throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

As we approach the fifth anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> tragedy, we are deeply disappointed that there has been so little practical progress to create and implement interoperable communications solutions for America's first responders and to provide public safety with the broadband resources and technology needed to protect the citizens and emergency personnel of our country.

As the representative voice of the Virginia Fire Chiefs, we strongly request, as the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission that you initiate a proceeding to allow public consideration of and comment on the Cyren Call Communications' Petition for Rule Making (filed April 27, 2006) for a nationwide, state-of-the-art, seamless, next generation broadband network for public safety.

Knowing this proposal and the much needed attention it could bring to the current and evolving wireless communications needs, could greatly benefit first responders throughout our nation, we are compelled to seek your assistance in this matter.

The VFCA acknowledges the fact that the 24 MHz of 700 MHz that will be released to public safety in 2009 will still be insufficient and is extremely encouraged about the capabilities of the proposed privately funded, interoperable wireless broadband network, supporting next-generation technologies for public safety. We are confident the public safety community will benefit and be in a much stronger position to protect our citizenry and all first responders if you start the discussion of these critically important topics by opening a public rulemaking proceeding on the Cyren Call proposal. While we recognize the value of fully analyzing the implications of a public-private partnership for public safety, we believe that the time clearly has come to officially review the issue and invite public comment on the proposal. Based on the ongoing tenuous state of our nation's public safety communications systems, a discussion of this nature is long overdue.

Mr. Chairman, we call on you and our Congressional representatives to start and conclude a proceeding on the Cyren Call proposal posthaste!

Best Regards,

William C. Howlett  
President

cc: Members of Congress