



# **NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS**

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September 6, 2006

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

Dear Chairman Martin:

The New York State Association of Fire Chiefs (NYS AFC) is a not for profit, service oriented organization founded in 1904 by chiefs from throughout the state of New York. With over 14,000 national and international members, it is one of the largest fire chiefs associations in the world. The organization promotes the interests and concerns of all of the emergency services, including the medical field and those who manage the emergency services sector.

As we approach the fifth anniversary of the September 11th tragedy, we are deeply saddened and severely 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. How many more disasters, terrorist attacks or innocent deaths are needed to focus our national priorities?

As the representative voice of the needs and concerns of our members, including the State of New York's emergency services providers, we strongly urge you, as the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission to 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 simply do not understand how or why the Commission could allow this proposal to lie dormant for the past four months.

The NYSAFC 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 respectfully call on you and our Congressional representatives to start and conclude a proceeding on the Cyren Call proposal posthaste!

Sincerely,

Thomas L. LaBelle  
Executive Director

CC: NYS Congressional Delegation  
The Honorable Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
The Honorable Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein  
The Honorable Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate  
The Honorable Commissioner Robert M. McDowell