



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

317 South Patrick Street. ~ Alexandria, Virginia ~ 22314-3501

(703) 549-0775 ~ (800) 322-NAPO ~ Fax: (703) 684-0515

www.napo.org ~ Email: info@napo.org

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

February 25, 2026

MICHAEL McHALE
President
*Florida Police Benevolent
Association*

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chair
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

JOHN A. FLYNN
Vice President
*Police Benevolent
Association of New York City*

CRAIG LALLY
Recording Secretary
*Los Angeles Police
Protective League*

Dear Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing approximately 250,000 sworn law enforcement officers across the United States, I am writing to advise you of our priorities for reauthorizing the First Responder Network (FirstNet) Authority.

SCOTT HOVSEPIAN
Treasurer
*Massachusetts Coalition
of Police*

DARRELL KRIPLEAN
Sergeant-at-Arms
*Phoenix Law Enforcement
Association*

FirstNet is a nationwide broadband network dedicated to emergency responders and the public safety community. It arose out of the experiences of first responders on September 11, 2001, who struggled to communicate with one another as they responded to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centers. NAPO was instrumental in the creation of the FirstNet Authority in 2012, working with Congress to create a single nationwide network that allows all public safety agencies to communicate with one another.

SCOTT LEETON
Executive Secretary
*Combined Law Enforcement
Associations of Texas*

MARK YOUNG
Vice President,
Associate Members
*Detroit Police Lieutenants &
Sergeants Association*

As the Committee continues to consider the reauthorization of the FirstNet Authority, we urge you to maintain it as an independent agency within the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and clearly codify that the FirstNet Authority Board, not the NTIA, sets network strategy, approves and executes investments, directs public safety engagement, and evaluates the FirstNet Chief Executive Officer. We also support the expansion of the FirstNet Authority Board to ensure public safety professionals have a stronger voice and representation.

JAMES PALMER
Parliamentarian
*Wisconsin Professional Police
Association*

WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, CAE
Executive Director and
General Counsel

It is also vital that the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network maintains the ability to provide ruthless preemption services for public safety, which enables public safety officers on FirstNet to communicate and coordinate during emergencies, large events, or other situations where commercial networks can become congested. This is a mission-critical service that ensures first responders can effectively protect the public in any situation.

FirstNet Authority reauthorization must also continue the expansion of the public safety network coverage into rural and underserved areas. Revenues and sustainability fees must be reinvested back into FirstNet for coverage, capacity, resiliency,

cybersecurity, and innovation, and not be allowed to be diverted for NTIA or other Department of Commerce expenditures or programs. Further, the FirstNet Authority Board must be allowed to make such reinvestment decisions in a transparent and accountable manner without additional bureaucratic hurdles.

It is vitally important that the FirstNet Authority remains an independent agency with a strong Board that has the authority to make decisions to protect and expand the public safety network.

We thank you for your consideration of our recommendations for the reauthorization of the FirstNet Authority and look forward to working with you to ensure its continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Johnson", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

William J. Johnson, Esq.
Executive Director

Cc: Members, Committee on Energy and Commerce, U.S. House of Representatives