



NEWS FROM THE MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Major Cities Chiefs Applaud National Communications Network

WASHINGTON, March 30, 2017 – On behalf of the largest law enforcement agencies in the Nation, Major Cities Chiefs Association President J. Thomas Manger issued a statement today commending the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) for the implementation of a national broadband communications network for all public safety agencies.

The origins of FirstNet go back to the 9-11 Commission, which recommended a unified national network to ensure interoperability between all police, fire and emergency services. In the years following, the Major Cities Chiefs Association advocated for the network and proposed legislation to Congress that ultimately established FirstNet as an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce.

“Today, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross announced the award of a major contract to begin the build-out of the national network, and the Major Cities Chiefs Association pledges to participate fully in the design and implementation process.”

"Those who serve on the front lines of law enforcement deserve to have the best and most advanced technology. Since the tragic events of September 11, the Major Cities Chiefs Association has called for a national communications network, which will now be implemented. Law enforcement and public safety agencies will benefit, and we will better serve the communities we have sworn to protect," said Chief J. Thomas Manger, President of the Major Cities Chiefs Association.

Appearing at the event, Executive Director Darrel Stephens also said, "Today's announcement marks a milestone for FirstNet. By choosing a partner to build the network, FirstNet has moved from a planning phase to implementation. The advantages of state-of-the-art technology will soon be in the hands of the men and women of public safety."

In his remarks, Stephens said, "The Major Cities Chiefs Association has been a leading advocate for a national broadband communications network because it will solve problems we have faced for decades. The planned system will finally ensure interoperability between multiple agencies, removing a barrier that is unacceptable in this era of advanced technology. FirstNet will also provide capabilities and applications that are not possible with conventional radio systems, which are now required tools in the 21st century."

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Major Cities Chiefs is a professional association of Chiefs and Sheriffs representing the largest cities in the United States and Canada. Membership is comprised of Chiefs and Sheriffs of the sixty-nine largest law enforcement agencies in the United States and ten largest in Canada. The Chiefs serve more than 82 million people.