

NEWS RELEASE



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U.S. Department of Commerce Appoints Houston Executive Assistant Chief Matt Slinkard to First Responder Network Authority Board

Houston, Texas Police Department Executive Assistant Chief Matt Slinkard was appointed by the U.S. Department of Commerce to serve on the Board of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) on October 17, 2019. Chief Slinkard serves as an executive command officer with Houston Police Department where he manages the investigative and special operations functions that include 22 divisions and five commands.

Chief Slinkard will represent Major Cities Chiefs Association on the FirstNet Board to oversee the activities of the FirstNet Authority to ensure the building, deployment and operation of FirstNet for public safety agencies.

MCCA President Art Acevedo said, "Chief Slinkard brings a wealth of experience to the table as FirstNet expands across jurisdictional boundaries around the country. I am excited for this opportunity for Matt and our entire MCCA organization." Executive Director Laura Cooper said "I am thankful our organization is represented in this important public safety topic. This will ensure officers have access to the best communications in the world during a crisis in order to provide the highest level of public safety to our citizens."

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) is an independent entity within the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The FirstNet Authority's mission is to ensure the building, deployment, and operation of FirstNet, the nationwide broadband network that equips first responders to save lives and protect U.S. communities. In March 2017, the Department of Commerce and the FirstNet Authority announced a partnership with AT&T to build and operate the FirstNet network. FirstNet will modernize public safety communications and deliver the technologies and infrastructure that responders need for day-to-day operations, disaster response and recovery, and securing of large events.

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 created the FirstNet Authority, and Congress directed that the organization be governed by a 15-person Board, with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the U.S. Attorney General, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget named as permanent Board members. Congress charged the Secretary of Commerce with selecting the remaining 12 members.

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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 nine largest in Canada.