

SEPARATE STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER KEVIN J . MARTIN

Re: The 4.9 GHz Band Transferred from Federal Government Use, Memorandum Opinion and Order and Third Report and Order, WT Docket No. 00-32

I am pleased to support this item, which establishes licensing and service rules for public safety use of the 4940-4990 MHz band (4.9 GHz band). This item responds to public safety's need for spectrum dedicated to high-speed data transmission. Numerous state, county, local government, and national public safety associations argued persuasively that use of the 4.9 GHz band for high-speed data transmission will enable responders to carry out critical missions in a way that ensures more effective service to their communities and provides a safer environment for emergency responders. In today's item, we adopt licensing and service rules to promote those goals.

The rules we adopt are intended to accommodate a variety of new public safety broadband applications, such as high speed on-site file transfers and specialized headsets equipped with video cameras and environmental sensors. For example, emergency personnel can use this spectrum to have instant access to maps, building layouts, emergency medical service files, and wanted or missing person images. Our rules also allow each user to have maximum autonomy to use the spectrum as suits its particular needs. Users in rural areas thus may choose to use the spectrum to cover larger distances, while users in cities may have a greater need for mobile and "hot spot" uses.

I am hopeful that the rules we adopt will help public safety personnel – which include law enforcement, fire fighters, SWAT teams, bomb squads, emergency medical providers, and others – carry out their missions in as safe and effective a manner as possible. These people, who must risk their lives to protect our own lives and property, deserve nothing less.