

**Brief Remarks of
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Summit on 911 Call Center Operations and Next Generation 911 Technologies**

**February 6, 2008
9:00 a.m.
Commission Meeting Room**

Good Morning! I am pleased to welcome all of you to this summit on 911 communications capabilities. I especially want to welcome the Russian delegation that has joined us today to learn about our 911 systems and public safety communications capabilities. Your presence illustrates how much we all share a common interest in keeping our citizens safe. Indeed, no matter what issue the Commission is considering, it seems that all roads lead to public safety.

One of the most important responsibilities of the Commission is to adopt policies related to public safety communications that better enable our nation's public safety agencies to do their jobs. Our responsibility extends to first responders, law enforcement, hospitals, and more, as well as to the service providers that help them communicate.

In 2006, the Commission created the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau to better perform this important work. We are grateful that

Chief Poarch graciously took the helm. In the almost year and a half since the Bureau was created, and just under a year that Chief Poarch has been in charge, he and his entire team have built an outstanding record, which is fortunate, because much is expected when it comes to public safety and homeland security.

The Commission constantly seeks to strengthen the communications capabilities available to public safety providers. Those of you here today are leading experts in this area. We have sought your input on how our current Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) perform, especially in times of disaster, such as September 11th or Katrina, when the demand is greatest and effective response is crucial. We also seek your input on how to plan for the future, what needs to be done and what may stand between a vision of better public safety communications and actually achieving this critical, life-saving goal.

As a former state regulator and now as an FCC Commissioner, I have always sought the knowledge of independent experts – you on the ground – for your honest assessment of our public policies. On matters related to

public safety and homeland security, nothing could be more important than straight talk, an honest assessment, and a commitment to get the policy right.

That's why your participation – your experience, your insights, and your perspectives – means so much to us, to our Nation and to our citizens.

Have a great meeting and thank you for what you do every day.