

STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MIGNON L. CLYBURN

Re: Wireless E911 Location Accuracy Requirements, *Second Report and Order*, PS Docket No. 07-114; Wireless E911 Location Accuracy Requirements, E911 Requirements for IP-Enabled Service Providers, *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Notice of Inquiry*, PS Docket No. 07-114, WC Docket No. 05-196.

As I have mentioned before, one of the top priorities of this agency should be the safety of consumers. The accuracy of wireless E-9-1-1 location services has become an increasingly important public safety concern, because our citizens have become more dependent on their mobile wireless devices. This surge in the demand for mobile wireless services reflects, in large part, an increased demand for innovative broadband applications. But as the Fourteenth Report on Mobile Services highlights, this increased demand for mobile services, is also a result of more people opting to rely solely on their mobile wireless service for their communications needs. As the percentage of citizens who only rely on mobile services increases, so should our focus on improving the location accuracy of E-9-1-1 for emergency services.

The Order and Notices we adopt today, send important messages about the direction our communications industry should take with regard to improving E-9-1-1 services. As the history leading up to the Second Report and Order suggests, consensus by all stakeholders is a more effective way to make our citizens safer than litigation. I congratulate APCO, NENA, AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon Wireless, for reaching a workable compromise on location accuracy standards, and for putting the safety of our citizens ahead of other interests.

The Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Notice of Inquiry, demonstrate a comprehensive and balanced approach to promoting more accurate E-9-1-1 services. I was particularly pleased to see the Further Notice address the different problems that service providers face in challenging environments, such as certain rural areas. It may be the case, that all service providers, large and small, face technical challenges in providing E-9-1-1 services. It is also true however, that these problems are more acute in hard to serve areas, where 3G networks are not currently deployed. Therefore, we should promote improved location accuracy standards, while recognizing that different areas may require different approaches to achieving those standards. I was also pleased to see that both Notices recognize the importance of considering the interests of persons living with disabilities. I commend the parties, such as AT&T and CTIA, who urged all stakeholders to account for those interests in developing E-9-1-1 technical solutions.

The Notice of Inquiry properly asks about the feasibility of extending location accuracy requirements to the many new wireless devices and applications, that provide the equivalent of mobile telephony but because of technical classifications, are not subject to our E-9-1-1 rules. Consumers have come to expect, that they can make VoIP phone calls from their computers as well as from their iPhones and other smart phones. It is reasonable for them to expect that they can access E-9-1-1 services when using VoIP technology. The Commission should ensure that its E-9-1-1 rules adapt to keep pace with consumer expectations. I encourage large carriers, smaller service providers, and other stakeholders, to provide us with the relevant information we need to take a proper, thorough, look at this issue. I thank the staff of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau for their hard work on these items.