

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MIGNON L. CLYBURN**

Re: *Amendments to Part 4 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Disruptions to Communications, PS Docket No. 15-80, ET Docket No. 04-35, PS Docket No. 11-82, Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Order on Reconsideration.*

Last week, as part of my #ConnectingCommunities tour, I had the privilege of visiting the Charleston County Consolidated 9-1-1 Center in North Charleston, South Carolina. I learned about their current implementation of text-to-911 – Charleston County has the distinction of being among the approximately eight percent of PSAPs nationwide with this capability – as well as their strategic plans for implementing Next Generation 9-1-1 service.

Like many other PSAPs in the country, Charleston County is considering implementing an Emergency Services IP Network or ESINet, as the foundation for the provisioning of Next Generation 9-1-1 service to its community. These broadband enabled networks support the transmission of very large data files, such as pictures and videos, the sharing of data between PSAPs, the transfer of operations to other 9-1-1 centers, and many other notable benefits.

Broadband networks and services, are the future of Next Generation 9-1-1, and accordingly, are critical to the nation's emergency preparedness and crises management. But our nation's reliance on broadband networks extends far beyond emergency services, with broadband being an essential tool for anyone who wants to fully engage in our connected society. Broadband is, as I often say, a connector to opportunities.

And as the nation's demand for broadband services increases, and providers continue to modify and improve their networks, it is imperative that the Commission's network outage reporting rules keep pace. The *Report and Order* and *Further Notice* aim to do just that. It is important to keep in mind, that the fundamental purpose of these rules is to collect and analyze data that could affect the nation's security, public health and economic well-being – information that the Commission has no means of gathering on a consistent and reliable basis from any other source. The data gathered by these reports helps providers, industry working groups, and Commission staff identify and address systemic vulnerabilities in order to improve network reliability and resiliency, and ideally, prevent future outages.

I applaud the providers' commitment to assist the Commission in the fulfillment of its fundamental statutory mandate to promote safety of life and property, by protecting the nation's communications networks. I also recognize that executing new reporting requirements takes time, planning and resources, which is why I asked for sensible timelines for implementation of the reporting obligations in the *Report and Order*, and clarity on acceptable methodologies for allocating capacity when an outage only affects some PSAPs served by a mobile switching center.

Many thanks are due to the staff of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau for their hard work and continued dedication to ensuring that the nation's communications infrastructure is reliable, resilient and secure.