

Carr Welcomes FCC Vote on Wireless Resiliency Proposal and Notes Strong Public Safety Support for This Approach to Strengthening Networks

Public Safety and First Responder Groups Support Effort to Create Stronger, Enforceable Protections for Consumers During Disasters

WASHINGTON, DC, June 15, 2022—Last month, Commissioner Brendan Carr [called](#) for the FCC to adopt new rules that will promote consumer access to robust, resilient wireless networks during disasters at an event hosted by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO). Specifically, Carr called for the FCC to require mobile providers to participate in the wireless resiliency framework and mandate roaming during disaster arrangements. Carr noted at the time that he has been pleased to work with FCC Chairwoman Rosenworcel on these issues. Today, Chairwoman Rosenworcel circulated a draft decision to her fellow FCC Commissioners that tracks ideas in Carr’s earlier remarks.

Commissioner Carr issued the following statement:

“I have been very pleased to work with Chairwoman Rosenworcel on this important initiative that would promote our shared goals of strengthening America’s wireless networks and improving public safety communication. I want to commend Chairwoman Rosenworcel for her leadership and for bringing forward for a vote a decision that advances these interests. If adopted by the full Commission, this approach would build on the successful actions that America’s wireless providers have been taking to improve network resiliency.”

Commissioner Carr added, “I have been very pleased to see the broad support that this approach has been receiving from public safety and first responder groups.”

After Carr’s remarks last month calling for the FCC to replace the voluntary 2016 wireless resiliency framework with new rules, the following organizations have expressed their support for taking that action:

National Sheriffs’ Association: “The nation’s Sheriffs support Commissioner Carr’s proposal to improve public safety. Wireless resiliency in the face of disasters, both natural and man-made, ensure that first responders are able to respond effectively to calls for help. The National Sheriffs’ Association supports the requirement for wireless providers to participate in the Wireless Resiliency Framework, as it will have a clear, positive impact on public safety.” Jonathan Thompson, Executive Director & CEO, National Sheriffs’ Association

Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO): “APCO welcomes Commissioner Carr’s call for new requirements to strengthen communications during disasters. We look forward to future action by the FCC to promote wireless network resiliency and public safety.” Derek Poarch, Executive Director & CEO, APCO

International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC): “The International Association of Fire Chiefs joins our public safety and communication partners in thanking Commissioner Carr for his leadership in promoting more resilient wireless networks during disasters. The Commissioner’s proposal lays a groundwork for improving the general public’s ability to communicate during disasters which is key to preserving their well-being and ability to request emergency assistance. The IAFC looks forward to engaging with the FCC and our partners on this effort to enhance the general public’s and first responder’s communications capabilities during disasters.” Chief Kenneth W. Stuebing, BHSc, CCP(f), President and Board Chair, International Association of Fire Chiefs

Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA): “Outdated technology and wireless carrier outages test the resiliency of the public safety communications systems across the country which are critical to keeping first responders and our citizens safe. The need to invest in this infrastructure, especially during national disasters, is necessary for wireless consumers to be able to communicate with emergency services. This proposal is an important step in ensuring reliable and robust communication services are available during a person’s time of need.” Laura Cooper, Executive Director, Major Cities Chiefs Association

National Emergency Number Association (NENA–The 9-1-1 Association): “NENA supports Commissioner Carr’s efforts to open a rulemaking procedure addressing wireless-network resiliency during disasters. Like Commissioner Carr, NENA recognizes the substantial investments and improvements wireless carriers make in building robust, reliable networks. During disasters, all affected carriers must work to restore service – both individually and cooperatively. Commissioner Carr’s proposal would provide a fresh look at wireless resiliency by addressing participation in the existing Wireless Resiliency Framework, roaming, and events that trigger the activation of the wireless-resiliency processes and safeguards.” Brian Fontes, CEO, NENA

National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC): “NPSTC is highly supportive of Commissioner Carr’s efforts to improve wireless resiliency. History has shown that when communications are most needed, as in a hurricane, systems are either inoperative due to damaged equipment, lack of power, or system overload. Anything the Commission can do to strengthen wireless capabilities through...emergency roaming, or other enhancements could significantly improve communications capabilities for both the general public and for public safety. We applaud Commissioner Carr for taking the lead in this important effort.”

Western Fire Chiefs Association: “FCC Commissioner Carr’s presentation during the APCO conference was emblematic of his continued emphasis on public safety issues. We continue to appreciate his attention to issues that affect matters of public safety and engagement during and after national emergencies which demonstrate his interest and passion. We look forward to the ongoing dialogue.” Chief Jeff Johnson, Executive Director, Western Fire Chiefs Association

Public Knowledge: “Critically, [Carr] agrees that current voluntary wireless framework is insufficient to protect the public...Glad to see bipartisan action...still possible. Also glad to see recommendation for trigger expanded to include ESF-2 (FEMA) OR DIRS activation, not ESF-2

and DIRS activation. Natural disasters r enemy of ALL humankind. Sensible rules will make us all safer.” [Harold Feld](#), Senior Vice President, Public Knowledge

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