

**STATEMENT OF
ACTING FCC CHAIRWOMAN MIGNON L. CLYBURN**

Re: *Implementing Public Safety Broadband Provisions of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, PS Docket No. 12-94; Implementing a Nationwide, Broadband, Interoperable Public Safety Network in the 700 MHz Band, PS Docket No. 06-229; Service Rules for the 698–746, 747–762, and 777–792 MHz Bands, WT Docket No. 06-150.*

Hurricane Sandy made landfall in the United States one year ago tomorrow with a force so traumatic that an area stretching over 1000 miles, from Florida to Maine, was impacted. Sandy reminded us once again of the importance of communications during disasters – that it is vital for all Americans, particularly our brave public safety responders, who risk their lives every day to keep our communities safe. After that storm, the Commission conducted a series of field hearings to see what lessons we could learn from this historic, catastrophic event. On the anniversary of Sandy, it is fitting that the Commission is moving forward with yet another item that will help improve public safety communications.

When Congress enacted the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, it provided a solid framework for a nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network – a network that the public safety community needs and deserves to protect our communities. In concert with the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the Commission is working to ensure the success of this first-of-its-kind network.

Today, the Commission meets its Congressional directive by adopting important technical rules for the 700 MHz public safety broadband spectrum. These clear rules will advance FirstNet’s mission by spurring innovation and competition in the market for public safety broadband equipment. The rules provide urgently needed clarity for equipment manufacturers, and will facilitate prompt product development to support the early adopters in this band, and to meet FirstNet’s deployment time line. The rules will also fulfill the Commission’s obligation to provide interference protection to other Commission licensees, ensuring that users in adjacent spectrum can continue to operate without harmful interference.

Today’s action addresses the most pressing concern in this proceeding: technical rules for the public safety band, which provide vendors with the lead time necessary to bring equipment to the marketplace. However, we also remain aware of the other outstanding issues in this docket and understand the importance of their timely resolution. We will continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure that these issues are addressed.

I would like to thank the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau and the Office of Engineering of Technology for their work on this issue, along with the International Bureau, Wireless Bureau, and the Office of General Counsel. In particular, I’d like to thank Bureau Chief David Turetsky, and staff members Brain Hurley, Gene Fullano, Rasoul Safavian, Erika Olsen, Behzad Ghaffari and Yoon Chang in the Public Safety Bureau, for their contributions in bringing this item to the Commission today.