



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION
FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY
**MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 17, 2022, COMBINED BOARD AND COMMITTEES
MEETING IN PERSON AND VIA WEBEX**

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) held an open public meeting of the FirstNet Authority Board and its Committees. The meeting took place on Wednesday, August 17, 2022, via WebEx and in person at 9:00 AM PDT in Los Angeles, California. An audio recording and transcript of the meeting, as well as the archived presentation, are available on the FirstNet Authority website: www.FirstNet.gov.

INTRODUCTION

Board Chair Stephen Benjamin welcomed all who joined the FirstNet Authority Combined Board and Committees meeting in person in Los Angeles, California and virtually. Chair Benjamin also welcomed Robert Brown, the new Department of Justice Designee to the Board, who serves as Executive Assistant Director for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Science and Technology Branch and replaces former Board Designee, Darrin Jones. Director Brown will serve on the Board's Programs and Future Planning Committee and noted he served for nine years as a patrol officer in Greenville, South Carolina.

Chair Benjamin shared that the Board had an opportunity to conduct a site visit at SoFi Stadium, which hosted the 2022 Super Bowl. The FirstNet Authority and AT&T worked closely with Los Angeles' public safety agencies on advanced planning in 2021, as well as during the event in the joint operations center.

During the meeting, the Board approved the May 4, 2022, Combined Board and Committees meeting minutes, heard a public safety testimonial from local public safety stakeholders about their experience with the FirstNet network, and specifically, the network's role in the 2022 Super Bowl in Los Angeles, received a review of Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 and priorities for FY 2023 from Acting FirstNet Authority Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Lisa Casias, received a Finance and Investment Committee Update, took a Finance and Investment Committee Resolution vote and a Board Resolution vote related to the FY 2023 budget, heard updates from the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) Chair Christopher Lombard and the Advocacy, Programs and Future Planning Committee, and heard closing remarks from Acting FirstNet Authority CEO Casias.

Roll Call

Stephen Benjamin ("Chair"), Richard Carrizzo ("Vice Chair"), Billy Bob Brown Jr., Robert Brown, Brian Crawford, Alexandra Fernández Navarro, Kristin Graziano, Billy Hewes, Karima

Holmes, Peter Koutoujian, Warren Mickens, Sylvia Moir, Jocelyn Moore, Paul Patrick, and Tia Boatman Patterson. A quorum was present for the Board and Combined Committees meeting.¹

Conflicts Statement and Reminder

Prior to participating in the FirstNet Authority Combined Board and Committees meeting, Board Secretary Janell Smith provided Board members with the meeting agenda and Conflict of Interest guidance provided by the Ethics Law and Program Division of the Department of Commerce Office of General Counsel that applies to all Board members. All Board members responded prior to the meeting that they did not need to recuse themselves from participation in any portion of the meeting, therefore indicating no conflicts of interest, and the meeting proceeded.

Votes Taken

Prior to proceeding with the business of the day, Chair Benjamin requested a motion to approve the minutes from the May 4, 2022, Combined Board and Committees Meeting. Karima Holmes made the motion. Alexandra Fernández Navarro seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the May 4, 2022, Combined Board and Committees meeting minutes to be available to the public at the end of the meeting.

The Finance and Investment Committee voted to approve Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 32 – Recommendation on Fiscal Year 2023 Budget:

- Karima Holmes motioned to approve Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 32 – Recommendation on Fiscal Year 2023 Budget. Billy Hewes seconded, and the Finance and Investment Committee unanimously voted to approve the resolution.

The Board also voted to approve Resolution 114 – Fiscal Year 2023 Budget:

- Jocelyn Moore motioned to approve Board Resolution 114 – Fiscal Year 2023 Budget. Sylvia Moir seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the resolution.

MATTERS DISCUSSED

Public Safety Testimonial

Committee Chairman Richard Carrizzo introduced Randy Goddard, Assistant Commanding Officer for the Information Technology Bureau of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). Commander Goddard shared what the LAPD's experience has been using the FirstNet network, highlighting how the Department is now more reliant on smartphone devices for day-to-day communication rather than their traditional land base radios. Officers are beginning to use their smartphones as their entry point to everything they're doing – it's becoming their office. This transition would not be successful without a reliable network. FirstNet provides the reliability and coverage they need to make this use of newer technology possible. Commander Goddard detailed how smartphone devices and FirstNet enabled the Department's officers to successfully support the 2021 Super Bowl at SoFi Stadium and related activities in Los Angeles, and how

¹ Robert Brown participated virtually.

FirstNet AT&T was able to provide connectivity for a central command center where communications infrastructure and connectivity did not previously exist. Commander Goddard thanked the Board, emphasizing the importance of the FirstNet network to LAPD, and the phenomenal relationship they have with the FirstNet Authority and FirstNet AT&T. Further discussion about LAPD's experience with the FirstNet network ensued between Commander Goddard and several Board members.

FY 2022 Review and FY 2023 Priorities

FirstNet Authority Acting CEO Lisa Casias highlighted the FirstNet Authority's and the FirstNet network's progress in FY 2022. Key accomplishments for the Authority included marking the 10th anniversary of the Authority's creation, adapting and remaining focused on execution over the past year while staff was fully remote until returning to the office in April 2022, and resuming a more robust engagement program with public safety in the field face-to-face. There are now 3.7 million connections on the FirstNet network, more than 95 percent of public safety's Band 14 spectrum has been deployed nationwide, and nearly 22,000 agencies are using FirstNet for daily operations and responding to emergencies.

Priorities for FY 2023 include moving from an initial build-out to future enhancements of the FirstNet network and further strengthening stakeholder engagement programs through the FirstNet Authority's Market Engagement team with a targeted, campaign-based approach for each public safety discipline. The FirstNet Authority will also remain focused on directing planning and investment dollars to advance the network based on the roadmap.

Finance and Investment Committee Update

Committee Chairman Brian Crawford spoke on the FirstNet Authority's FY 2022 budget, confirming that financial execution during the current fiscal year has been well within the boundaries of the FY 2022 budget approved by the Board, and the FirstNet Authority will end the fiscal year with cumulative administrative expenses below the cap mandated by its implementing legislation. FirstNet Authority Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Kim Farington reviewed cumulative obligations of \$54.1 million through the end of June 2022 and confirmed that actual expenditures are under budget through nine months of FY 2022.

Farington then presented the proposed FY 2023 budget of \$357.7 million, divided into an operations budget request of \$83.9 million, a reserve allocation equal to that one year's annual operations budget of \$83.9 million, and the remaining allocation of \$189.9 million to the national public safety broadband network investment budget.

The Committee members approved Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 32, and the Board approved Board Resolution 114 – Fiscal Year 2023 Budget.

PSAC Update

PSAC Chair Christopher Lombard provided updates regarding the PSAC's virtual business meeting in May, discussions with FirstNet AT&T on new network updates and Response Operations Group deployments, and the FirstNet Authority's Market Engagement team introduction of discipline campaigns, which is a new way to engage public safety around the

FirstNet network and their broadband communications needs, and how the PSAC members themselves will be involved.

Chair Lombard also recognized two new PSAC members, Dr. Hezedean Smith of Charlottesville Fire, representing the National EMS Management Association, and Darrin Jones, the new DOJ-FBI representative and former Board member.

The PSAC's Tribal Working Group will meet in Boulder in November due to the delegate's emergency management and response work in June, and the first in-person, full PSAC meeting in quite a while will be held in conjunction with the next Board meeting in November in Washington, DC.

Advocacy Committee Update

Committee Chairman Carrizzo thanked Commander Goddard for joining today's meeting and noted LAPD and AT&T's recent announcement that the LAPD recently expanded its use of the FirstNet network and issued 7,000 FirstNet-enabled devices to each officer, outfitted patrol vehicles with routers to provide network connectivity to its officers in the field, and equipped officers with intrepid network response for FirstNet platform.

Moving to other recent collaborations, the FirstNet Authority was a key contributor to the Public Safety Communications Research (PSCR) annual stakeholder meeting in June, where Chairman Carrizzo provided the keynote address. FirstNet Authority subject matter experts served on several panels and breakout sessions and were able to provide feedback to PSCR as well as its grantees and Prize Challenge participants. Also in June, Board member Paul Patrick attended the National Association of State EMS Officials Annual Meeting and had several opportunities to provide an overview of the FirstNet Authority and network elevation.

Other engagements included FirstNet Authority Acting CEO Casias and Senior Director of Roadmap Brian Hobson attending and representing the FirstNet Authority at the Critical Communications World Conference in Vienna, Austria, and Board member Sheriff Koutoujian participated in the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) Annual Conference. FirstNet Authority staff held a successful in-person engagement with the San Diego Fire Department, where they learned about the Department's aviation assets and how they help with firefighting, rescue, search, command, and control. FirstNet Authority Acting CEO Casias, Board members Kristin Graziano, Chief Sylvia Moir, and Karima Holmes, several PSAC members and FirstNet Authority staff also attended the APCO 2022 annual conference and hosted an entire education track entitled, "FirstNet: Transforming the Future of Emergency Communications." Finally, the FirstNet Authority met with Chief Partridge and the City of Oxford Police Department in Alabama to learn more about their operations and technology use for their daily missions, including use of a rapid deployable purchased for their agency.

This fall, Finance and Investment Committee Chairman Crawford will attend the International Association of Fire Chiefs meeting in San Antonio, FirstNet Authority staff will participate in the Vision 22 FirstNet Summit Users, and Board member Patrick will also participate in EMS World in Orlando.

Programs and Future Planning Committee Update

Committee Chair Jocelyn Moore noted the Band 14 RAN deployment task order that will be reaching Final Operational Capability in March 2023, the over 1,000 new cell sites that will have been built as part of the FirstNet deployment, and the tools that the FirstNet Authority staff use to assist in independently analyzing network coverage and services available to subscribers, including a contract that is being used to perform drive testing across all states, specialized user devices that are used to collect data in areas that report to have coverage issues, a third-party contract leveraging crowd-sourced data, and internal controls and support for an independent third-party FirstNet cybersecurity analysis.

FirstNet Authority Chief Network and Technology Officer Jeff Bratcher shared that the FirstNet network is now providing dedicated wireless service to more than 3.7 million public safety device connections across more than 21,000 public safety agencies and organizations across all 56 states and territories, and growth in the FirstNet-ready devices and application catalog continues at a steady pace. Bratcher also noted that FirstNet Authority and AT&T FirstNet staff recently visited Guam and Saipan to perform contract checkpoints on the FirstNet deployment in the territories.

Closing Remarks

Chair Benjamin thanked Commander Goddard and PSAC Chair Lombard for sharing their insights with the Board, which is invaluable as we seek to improve the FirstNet network through our partnership with AT&T.

Acting CEO Casias noted that the FirstNet Authority is working with a recruitment firm to conduct a search for candidates for the FirstNet Authority CEO position, and an informational website and the position will soon be available to the public and available via firstnet.gov and other communication channels, followed by a posting on USAJobs. She also said the FirstNet Authority looks forward to the important work ahead in FY 2023 as it seeks to advance FirstNet for and with its public safety stakeholders.

Board Adjourned

Chair Benjamin requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Paul Patrick made the motion, Billy Bob Brown, Jr. seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.