



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION
FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY
COMBINED BOARD AND COMMITTEES MEETING TRANSCRIPT
August 21, 2024

Board Chair, Richard Carrizzo:

Good morning, everyone. Today we're convening the First Responder Network Authority's Combined Board and Committees Meeting. I'm Richard Carrizzo, Board Chairman. First, I want to thank everyone who is joining us in person and along on Webex. The Board is pleased to be meeting in the wonderful city of Salt Lake City today at the University of Utah's Department of Public Safety.

First, before we get going, we need to review the agenda for today's meeting. First, we'll start with the discussion and vote on the Authority's proposed coverage enhancement investment by the Board's Finance and Investment Committee and the full Board.

We'll then receive a Public Safety Advisory Committee update from PSAC Chair, Chris Lombard, and updates from the Board's Advocacy and Programs and Future Planning Committees. At this time, if I could ask the Board Secretary, call the roll for the Board and confirm that each committee has a quorum. Madam Secretary?

Jennifer Watts:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will mark you as present. Renee Gordon?

Jennifer Watts: Billy Bob Brown, Jr.?

Billy Bob Brown Jr.: Present virtually.

Jennifer Watts: Joe Carlile?

Joe Carlile: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Brian Crawford?

Brian Crawford: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Alexandra Fernandez Navarro?

Alexandra Fernandez Navarro: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Kristen Graziano?

Kristen Graziano: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Billy Hewes?

Billy Hewes: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Peter Koutoujian?

Peter Koutoujian: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Sean McDevitt?

Sean McDevitt: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Warren Mickens?

Warren Mickens: Present (virtual).

Jennifer Watts: Sylvia Moir?

Sylvia Moir: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Jocelyn Moore? Jocelyn Moore?

Jocelyn Moore: Present (virtual). Sorry, couldn't find the mute button. Present.

Jennifer Watts: Thank you. Paul Patrick?

Paul Patrick: Present.

Jennifer Watts:

Mr. Chair, we do have a quorum for the Board as well as for all four committees. Now I will read the conflicts statement. Prior to participating in the FirstNet Authority Combined Board and Committees Meeting today, the Board members have reviewed the agenda as well as the conflicts of interest guidance provided by the Ethics Law and Program Division of the Department of Commerce, Office of General Counsel regarding the conflict of interest standards that apply to the Board members. All Board members have responded prior to today's meeting that they do not have a conflict and will not need to recuse themselves from participation in any portion of this meeting. Thank you.

Richard Carrizzo:

Thank you, Madam Secretary. Appreciate it. I'm glad that everybody is here. All of our Board members should have before them or received the minutes of our June meeting. Are there any additions or corrections of those meetings at this time? Seeing none, I'd love to have a motion that we accept these minutes.

Kristen Graziano: Mr. Chairman, Kristen Graziano, I'll make a motion that we approve June meeting minutes.

Richard Carrizzo:

Thank you. Is there a second?

Peter Koutoujian: Mr. Chairman, Peter Koutoujian. I second the motion.

Richard Carrizzo:

Thank you. All in favor, say aye.

All: Aye.

Richard Carrizzo:

All opposed, indicate by saying nay. Hearing none. Are there any abstentions at this time? Hearing none. The June meeting minutes are accepted. Madam Secretary, please make the minutes available to the public following this meeting. At this time, I'd like to turn over the meeting to the Finance Chair, Brian Crawford, for the Finance and Investment Committee update.

Brain Crawford:

Thanks, Chief Carrizzo. Today, we'll provide a brief report on the FirstNet Authority's July 2024 cumulative operations budget and an overview and vote on Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 37, Recommendations on Coverage Enhancements. Through July of Fiscal Year 24, the FirstNet Authority has obligated a cumulative total of \$76.6 million and is tracking well within forecasted parameters of the FY 2024 operational budget. On the investment front, early in 2024, we announced a series of strategic investments and technology upgrades starting this year to, over time, enable full 5G capabilities for public safety subscribers across all 56 states and territories. Those investments will ensure that the network not only maintains parity with other commercial service providers but is also able to fully support a suite of evolving 5G-enabled services featuring and capabilities to meet public safety's operational needs. In addition, as part of the previously announced investment, the network's Band 14 spectrum, public safety's dedicated nationwide spectrum, will be transitioned to 5G technology as well as upgrades to the dedicated fleet of deployables and enhanced mission critical services over the network. The faster speeds, lower latency, and the future advances enabling by 5G technology will once again revolutionize how public safety uses the FirstNet network to perform their mission critical duties. I am incredibly excited to announce today that the Finance and Investment Committee members are fully supportive to unlock further and future benefits to public safety nationwide through additional Band 14 coverage investments starting this year. We will invest in coverage enhancements that reflect public safety factors and network considerations, as well as being

deliberate and strategic with these investments to ensure we maximize dollars and the impact on public safety operations. Let's move to the next slide to discuss the Finance and Investment Committee's resolution related to network investments to enhance coverage on FirstNet, the Nation's only mobile broadband network dedicated to public safety. Resolution 37 documents the Committee's having been briefed on the material items for reinvestment into the NPSBN. The resolution then recommends the Board approve the material items for reinvestment into the NPSBN that would provide a coverage enhancement capability to subscribers of the NPSBN and directs management to take all action necessary to obtain these services and to obligate the necessary funds through Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025. Before we vote, do any Finance and Investment Committee members have any questions about the proposed resolutions? Hearing none, we're prepared to vote on Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 37. Madam Secretary, would you please read the operative language?

Jennifer Watts:

Now therefore, be it resolved, the Finance and Investment Committee recommends to the Board that it approved the material items for reinvestment into the NPSBN that would strategically expand and enhance coverage for subscribers of the NPSBN and direct management to take all actions necessary to obtain these services and to obligate the necessary funds through fiscal year 2024 and fiscal year 2025.

Brian Crawford:

Thank you. May I have a motion to approve Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 37 from a Finance and Investment Committee member?

Billy Hewes:

Mr. Chairman, this is Billy Hewes. I move adoption of this resolution.

Brian Crawford:

Mayor Hewes proposes the adoption of the resolution. Is there a second?

Joe Carlile: Mr. Chair, this is Joe Carlile, I second the motion.

Brian Crawford:

Mr. Carlile seconds the motion. From the Finance and the Investment Committee – all in favor say aye.

Finance and Investment Committee Members: Aye.

Brian Crawford:

Those opposed indicate by saying nay. Are there any abstentions? The resolution is adopted. Madam Secretary, please make the resolution available to the public following this meeting. Mr. Chair, that concludes the Committee's business for today. I'll hand the floor back over to you, Chief Carrizzo.

Richard Carrizzo:

Thank you, Brian. I'm going to see if Jocelyn Moore, the Chair of our Programs and Future Planning has any additional comments regarding the coverage related investment activities.

Jocelyn Moore:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a matter of fact, I do. We know that the number one priority for public safety continues to be coverage. Today's investment will build on this Board's previous and significant coverage related investments as depicted on this slide. It is important to note, that we view coverage investments and the ability to enhance the network's footprint from a portfolio approach. In addition to the investments proposed today, our portfolio of past investments for public safety include inbuilding coverage options, building out deployable capacity and alternative form factors, 5G priority access for public safety so the network is available wherever and whenever public safety operates, and over time, upgrading our terrestrial tower-based infrastructure and deployables from 4G LGE technology to 5G. We also continue to explore future potential investment opportunities such as upgrading our deployable fleet with low Earth orbit backhaul capability. The investment framework we are unveiling today is focused on how we can continue to enhance coverage for FirstNet subscribers, including an estimated \$2 billion in coverage investments over the next 10 years. These investment dollars will largely focus on Tribal, territorial, and rural areas, or TTR as we like to call it, which this Board has made a critical focus. In addition to terrestrial coverage solutions in the Tribal, territorial, and rural geographies, we are also planning on additional investments that will, over time, enable satellite direct-to-device capability for FirstNet subscribers, as previously mentioned. We will work with public safety stakeholders nationwide to ensure that our investment dollars achieve the maximum benefit for public safety. Our goal is to enhance the experience of public safety wherever and whenever they access the Nation's only dedicated public safety network. All of these investments are in addition to the 1,000 new Band 14 enabled sites that AT&T is deploying in 2024 and 2025 as part of our network evolution announcement earlier this year. Chief Carrizo, this concludes my remarks on behalf of the Programs and Future Planning Committee on this important investment initiative. Thank you.

Richard Carrizo:

Thank you, Jocelyn. Appreciate all the highlights that were given today. Next, let's move to the Board Resolution 119 that the full Board should have been briefed on. I know you've been briefed on it numerous times and it is time to move this reinvestment into the National Public Safety Broadband Network forward. This resolution will further approve the material items for reinvestment into the NPSBN that would provide a coverage enhancement capabilities, subscribers of that network and directs management to take all actions necessary to obtain these services and obligate the necessary funds through Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025. The Board is now prepared to vote on Resolution 119. Before we vote, any Board members have any comments or questions about the proposed resolution? Hearing none, we are now prepared to vote on Board Resolution 119. Madam Secretary, would you please read the operative language?

Jennifer Watts:

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Board hereby approves the material items for reinvestment into the NPSBN that would expand and enhance coverage to subscribers of the NPSBN and directs management to take all actions necessary to obtain these services and to obligate the necessary funds through Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025.

Richard Carrizzo:

Thank you, Jennifer. May I have a motion to approve Board Resolution 119?

Paul Patrick:

This is Paul Patrick. I motion to approve.

Richard Carrizzo:

Thank you, Paul. Is there a second?

Alexandra Fernandez Navarro:

This is Alexandra Fernandez Navarro. I second the motion.

Richard Carrizzo:

Thank you, Alexandra. All in favor of Board Resolution 119, say aye.

All Board Members: Aye.

Richard Carrizzo:

Any opposed indicate by saying no. Are there any abstentions? Therefore, this resolution is adopted. Madam Secretary, please make the resolution available to the public following this meeting. Now let's get an update from our Public Safety Advisory Committee from Chairman of the PSAC, Chris Lombard.

Chris Lombard:

Chief Carrizzo. Thank you very much. Mr. Chair, it was a pleasure to see everybody at the in Chicago and our at the last Board meeting and then followed thereafter by the 5X5 conference. We were very pleased to see so many Board members attend the PSAC meeting as well. Next slide please.

This past quarter, the PSAC has not met, but it's been a busy summer with plenty of members involved with special events, association conferences, and even adverse weather situations that required extensive public safety planning and response. We've had many fires out in the western United States. We've had hurricane situations on the Eastern Seaboard, all of which have been supported by both public safety and our FirstNet partners. We appreciate the continued updates from AT&T related to FirstNet response operation groups, the ROG deployments, and much more. Again, it was great to get together and see so many of you during our June meeting in the 5X5 conference in Chicago. Certainly we certainly appreciate the Board's support of the PSAC. And again, I'm, as I mentioned, many of you attended our meeting and we had great discussions during the day at 5X5. We heard from several executives at AT&T who provided an update on the network progress and enhancements. Christina Wilson from the Authority guided us through a discussion on quality, scope, and timing of subscriber notifications. With respect to the Tribal Advisory Group (TAG), which is an ongoing working group of the PSAC, FirstNet Authority advisor, Jasper Brunner, met with newly appointed member, Chairwoman Wendy Slater, from the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians representing Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association. Jasper assisted TAG member and Chief of Police, Jess Hall, with the Red Cliff Band

of Lake Superior Chippewa during a fiber cut experienced in Redcliffe, Wisconsin. FirstNet Authority staff also met with TAG Chairman, Jared Godfrey, earlier this month in Anchorage. Next slide please.

For continued engagements, many of the PSAC associations, including TAG associations, will have their annual conferences coming up this fall. The PSAC and the PSAC Executive Committee will meet virtually later this month. We're looking forward to a legislative update and hearing about push to talk use across the country. Planning continues for our fall in-person conference. We're hoping and targeting a meeting in Boulder, Colorado, around the same time as the FirstNet Authority Board in December. Again, we want to thank all the Board members for their continued support as we continue to build out this phenomenal system that as we know and have seen is getting tried more and more every day and all of these national disasters and events and it's holding true to form. So we're so pleased with that. If there's no questions, that concludes my update, and I'll turn the floor back over to you, Mr. Chair.

Richard Carrizzo:

Thank you, Chris. Appreciate the report very much. Now we'll get an update from the Advocacy Committee Chair, Sylvia Moir.

Sylvia Moir:

Thank you very much, Chair Carrizzo. I would like to share some engagement highlights from the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2024 and our recent collaborations with our public safety stakeholders. It is what we do; we connect with those that are in the field. Our team participated in more than 350 public safety engagements and reached nearly 15,000 stakeholders from across all 56 states and territories. In the third quarter, the team hosted 12 public safety tours in our Boulder facility to demonstrate FirstNet capabilities to 51 visitors. And we were very fortunate to have visitors from the Redding Fire Department in California, from North Carolina, West Point and my alum, the Naval Postgraduate School, among many others, to visit Boulder and examine our capabilities firsthand. Through these engagements, the team gathered public safety's feedback on the use of FirstNet as well as the agency's respective operational needs. As you have already heard today, public safety's direct feedback is key as we continue expanding and enhancing this network. Feedback is thematically consistent quarter to quarter with from those who need, use, and deserve this network. For example, Jocelyn mentioned earlier that macro coverage remains the most common public safety need and is closely followed by interest and demand for consistent network availability in the context of network outages. Similar to last quarter's demand for high-speed data connectivity for real time situational awareness demand data for first responders, public safety articulated the need for real time video to monitor everything from wildfire activity to highways and large events. We will continue our engagements with public safety and we are committed to driving their unique communications needs into this FirstNet network.

Regarding some public safety engagement highlights, as we typically do, I'd like to highlight a few examples of our engagement with public safety during the past few months. Last month in Milwaukee and this week in Chicago, FirstNet Authority staff provided on-site planning and support to local, state, and federal public safety stakeholders at the Republican and Democratic National Conventions respectively. This support is part of the network experience engagement

program that our PSA team offers for the RNC and DNC. The team not only participated in event pre-planning with public safety and our partner AT&T, but also as I noted, we were on site at both events coordinating with AT&T to ensure needs were met to support public safety operations. This year, pre-planning addressed data needs for greater number and variety of sensors and other IoT or Internet of Things devices to provide situational awareness for public safety agencies. This is absolutely essential.

Just two weeks ago, the team attended the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, otherwise known as APCO, at their 2024 Annual Conference and Expo in Orlando, Florida. As in past years, we are fortunate to have an entire 12 session track dedicated to FirstNet, plus a presentation theater - a session at the presentation theater on the Expo floor. Some of our panelists shared their FirstNet use cases covering topics from drones providing situational awareness in the ECC, to the use of push to talk in schools, to live streaming body worn cameras. FirstNet sessions were very well attended.

Last week, Chief Carrizzo and the team participated in the Fire Rescue International 2024 hosted by the International Association of Fire Chiefs in Dallas, TX. This conference is an important venue for the team to engage with fire and emergency services leadership across all specialties. Chief Carrizzo updated the IAFC Board, and the team presented brief FirstNet updates to more than a dozen committees and sections. Via an Operational Committee Capabilities Workshop, the team gathered detailed feedback about technology gaps and the effectiveness of existing solutions. Additionally, the team continues to bring technology examples with them in the hosted booth to show, to demonstrate instead of just tell attendees about the art of what is possible. And so Chief Carrizzo, since you were there on the ground and you updated folks, we'd like to hear about any thoughts you'd like to share regarding the FRI.

Richard Carrizzo:

Well, I would say not just with the FRI conference, but all the conferences that we've been attending in the past, it is just incredible to watch from where we were in the very incipient stages to where we are today; from a really strong education in the early days to now. It is more about having real discussions, getting the the needs from the people, the committees, the sections and hearing such success stories and people wanting to share their successes with FirstNet to help others make that decision. It's been wonderful, and I can't thank the full team that was at FRI enough for all that they did. It was incredible.

Sylvia Moir:

Thanks, Chief Carrizzo. We meet First Responders where they are and the commitment that you made to be there on behalf of this Board is exceptional. So, thank you. Regarding 5X5, one of the most significant engagements in quarter three was our 5X5 Summit in Chicago, Illinois, and we successfully co-hosted this event with the National Institute of Standards and Technology's, Public Safety Communications Research Division or simply put PSCR. I had the opportunity to attend and participate on a panel about an important topic to me and to all of us and that was first responder wellness. I was honored to do that beside some exceptional pros that are committed to this field. As you can see on this slide, we had nearly 600 attendees representing 48 states and territories plus 13 countries - shows the global appeal of FirstNet. The Chicago Police Department Honor Guard opened this summit. Chief Leo Schmitz of the Cook County Sheriff's Department welcomed us to Chicago and to Cook County. The packed three-day agenda had 38

total breakout sessions and deep-dive discussions where our diverse attendees representing public safety, industry, academia; the coupling these these folks together with our federal government partners, we engaged in spirited discussions to learn from each other and from one another, to contribute and to learn. Just like last year, the summit provided an unparalleled focus on first responder communications as well as unique opportunities to foster connections among seemingly unlikely collaborators for this greater good. The FirstNet Authority also had this unique privilege to honor six award winners. You just heard from one of those, which was this year's Chief Harlin McEwen Public Safety Broadband Communications Award winner, our own Chief Chris Lombard. It was an absolute honor to give this award to Chris Lombard. He's done such exceptional work to advance this effort.

We recognized five Patriot Award winners for their use of FirstNet to make their community safer. And as we list these, we'd like you to take a moment. The recipients were Deputy Commissioner Robert Barbera from New York City; Virginia State Coordinator Sean Talmadge; San Bernardino Fire Chief Dan Munsey; Dallas, Georgia, Police Chief Joe Duvall, and Deputy Fire Chief Robert Simmons from Redstone Arsenal. We were delighted to honor these gentlemen. New this year, we were fortunate enough to have several local public safety agencies conduct outdoor technology demonstrations for us, and we cannot thank them enough. These agencies are the Oakbrook Police Department, Chicago Fire Department, Chicago Police Department. They were so willing to engage and share their innovative uses of various technologies with our attendees. If there any Board members that would like to share some high-level thoughts about their experience at 5X5? This is your opportunity. Well, hearing none. Delightfully, you don't have to hear from me any further, but I have, I have to say it's an absolute honor and a privilege to highlight the Advocacy Committee's work. It is not only Board and staff that do this work, it is all of the partners that do this work to meet folks where they are. So on behalf of the committee, that concludes my report, and I am delighted to turn this over to Jocelyn Moore from our Programs and Future Planning Committee. Jocelyn.

Jocelyn Moore:

Thank you so much Sylvia. It's always a pleasure to hear from you and get the extensive update from the Advocacy Committee and all the great work that the staff is doing in that regard for public safety. Very briefly, since I've already extended remarks, I will say that FirstNet, as you'll see on this slide, continues to see great momentum and growth. This slide provides a very brief snapshot of these accomplishments, which range from apps to devices, and solutions deployed to support public safety. On the next two slides, you'll see that public safety increasingly relies on the network for their communication needs. More than 28,500 public safety agencies and organizations from across the Nation are FirstNet subscribers, which is awesome. Since June, we have seen the network grow to over 6.1 million connections. That includes federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial agencies. We are far from done and I want to underscore that point. In the upcoming years, we are laser focused on improving coverage, evolving the network to 5G standalone, and giving our users innovative ways to improve their situational awareness and operations. Mr. Chairman, this concludes my remarks on behalf of the Programs and Future Planning Committee. However, I would like to take a very brief moment of personal privilege to acknowledge all of our departing Board members. You, Chief Carrizo, Brian Crawford, Billy Hughes, and Paul Patrick. I just want to say on my own behalf that it has been an extraordinary honor to serve alongside each of you and learn from you and work in partnership with you on

behalf of public public safety. We're going to miss you. I'm not going to cry and get choked up on this call, but I will spend time with each of you individually. But wanted to use a few seconds just to say thank you, thank you, thank you, Mr. Chairman, this concludes my remarks.

Richard Carrizzo:

Thank you very much, Jocelyn, and thank you for your report. Before I move on though, I do want to continue and congratulate our all of our Patriot Award winners and our Harlin McEwen Award winner, Chris Lombard, again. Quite an honor for everybody. So congratulations. But before we close out today's meeting, I wanted to thank our hosts at the Utah Department of Public Safety for hosting us. It has been a wonderful event. It was incredibly remarkable yesterday in discussing all their communications challenges that they experience within public safety here in Utah. We had representatives from the Washington County Central Fire District, Utah Department of Transportation, Utah County Emergency Management's Office, and the Utah County Sheriff's Office, along with the Salt Lake City Fire Department. With the Board's actions today, the Authority will continue our work in delivering the network the public safety has asked for and needs. We continue addressing their top priority, which is more coverage, coverage, coverage. We will continue to focus and plan our coverage enhancements on the areas that need it most with a strong focus on our territorial, Tribal, and rural plans. It's very exciting to watch the steps forward for the FirstNet Authority and I look forward to see what the future holds. At this time, I'd like to have some final comments and the Executive Director, Joe Wassel's report.

Joe Wassel:

Thank you, Chief Carrizzo. It's great to be with everyone here today. And I can't overstate how important the efforts of the Board today with these resolutions as we think about FirstNet 3.0 and we move this network forward for public safety, forward for the Nation. We have been so welcomed here in the great state of Utah just a remarkable couple of days. It happens to be the first days of school, 35,000 students and faculty. It's a serious business to keep them all safe. We heard from them yesterday. We went over to the firehouse yesterday as well. We saw their 911 call center. It's just great to take the hard work of the Board and always be reminded of the day-to-day activities and planning and the the extraordinary efforts of public safety. I have said many times that we can never ever thank public safety enough, and that's for the 6,000,000 First Responders out on the street and all the way through the entire enterprise to keep this great country safe at every echelon of of those, those 300 million calls for 911 kicks off this entire capability and the network has to be strong and ready and resilient to be able to keep them connected and doing their jobs. We will play our our part.

As we think about the Board and the incredible ripple effect from 9/11 and several Boards being seated, rolling off as the torch passes, as I get to sit here and work with this amazing Board on a very regular basis. The titles that I inherited when I came into the job, titles like mayor, commissioner, sheriff, undersheriff, firefighter, director, commissioner. It is incredible. The kind of wealth of knowledge, experience, and wisdom that comes from this Board. Over 500 years of combined first public safety experience on the Board. So let me strip away all the titles for just a moment and just say Rich, Paul, Brian, Billy and Sylvia. It has been an honor of a lifetime to get to work with you, learn from you, and be part of this incredible mechanism. So if you as the torch passes, we know you're going to continue. You've already told me we're not done. We're not done with this work. And in some cases, I can do more off the Board than in some cases I can

do on the Board. And we are excited to see what that looks like. We thank you for your service. And Mr. Chair, of the special relationship that you and I have and that you've allowed to happen, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I wish you all to have safe travels home. Thank you for everything you've done. More work will be done. And you have set the stage and we will stand on your shoulders as we move forward. So thank you very, very much.

To the Department of Commerce and NTIA, you're going to see the new Board and we are excited; you picked this Board. We cannot wait to see the next Board and see where you take us and see where we go together to improve communications for this Nation through this incredible network that used to be a pioneering effort. It's not a pioneering effort anymore. The expectation is that we are there, we are here, we will remain here, and we will continuously improve this capability for first responders and American leadership around the globe. I used to say the the world was watching. The world is actually with us as they are trying to do exactly the same thing. And American leadership is shining brightly with this effort here, the United States. So, Mr. Chairman, back to you and thank you very much.

Richard Carrizzo:

Thank you, Joe and thank you for your comments. Thank you for your leadership and continued friendship. And as we get ready to close out, as Jocelyn explained and Joe explained, four of the Board members are turning out after two, three-year terms and one member with a full term. So I know if you have a few comments they want to make and please bear with me. Sylvia Moir, the Undersheriff, Marion County. She spent over a decade as the Police Chief and as our current Advocacy Chairperson. She's she came to this Board representing law enforcement. She did that with vigor, (unintelligible), and she brought strong leadership. She also brought humor to the Board in ways that probably some of us couldn't have done. And I can't thank you enough for that, Sylvia and your friendship. And I'll let you have a few words.

Sylvia Moir:

Thanks, Chief Carrizo, it's been a delight. It's not light or easy work to select members to serve on this unique Board, this public private partnership. We represent states like California, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, New York, Massachusetts, South Carolina, Mississippi, Louisiana, Puerto Rico, Missouri, Washington, DC. We represent this Nation. We come from disparate professions but with the same purpose-driven mission to serve those who serve people. It is meaningful and essential work for the greater good of our society to put in the hands of first responders a communication method, a device that gets them to surge resources, call for help when they are inserting themselves into man-made natural disasters and other times of chaos. They are looking into the eyes of people in neighborhoods and communities who need first responders. And we, through this Board, in our efforts and the amazing work that has been done, we provide connectivity. This distinguished network envisioned and built by first responders for first responders, partnered with AT&T with this audacious mission, this incredible goal, now has 6.1 million connections. There's nothing like it. There's nothing like it. This public private partnership and this unique capability is is seeking global attention. The world is looking at FirstNet to replicate what was envisioned and is being carried out by these amazing, amazing people. We carry the work of the innovators, the policy makers to the the finance folks, the visionaries. We have met and exceeded the expectations. There's no other network that provides

this capability. There is no other network that provides this capability. There's no other Board that serves people. This Board and this staff serves people in this unique endeavor. I'm honored to have had a seat at this table to represent law enforcement with this heart and soul of a graveyard patrol cop, but with the acumen, the texture, the wisdom of this end-of-life executive executive career that I've had. It's been an absolute honor and a privilege to have my life intersect with your life and to do this very meaningful work on this Board. But for this Board, our lives may not have intersected in this incredibly meaningful way. And it's been an honor. We are the optimistic, driven, never flinching, mission-driven professionals from the seats that we serve. We have coupled together to do this amazing and meaningful work. And it was Winston Churchill who said this... for the future, those of you that are sticking around, Winston, Winston Churchill said this, only a foolish optimist would ignore the difficulty of what lies before us. There are people that say they have what we have. They do not have what we have. It's been an honor and a privilege. And I will watch you from the front row and I will cheer for you every single day. Thank you for the meaningful work that you do. It's been a privilege to be beside you.

Richard Carrizzo:

Sylvia, thank you and thank you for your continued friendship and our future friendship. Means a lot. I want to go back to Jocelyn who has a few words also.

Jocelyn Moore:

Thank you, Mr. Chair and Sylvia, lest anyone get the impression that I forgot you, I did not. I could never forget you. I wanted to, one as a communications person, you know not to break news and so I didn't want to break the news on your behalf. And so now that you have spoken, I want to just say you know your place in my heart as my friend. It has been so extraordinary to watch your leadership, to hear from you. The knowledge, the experience that you have imparted on this Board and countless others is immeasurable. We will take with us the lessons that you have taught us. And everything that you do, Sylvia, you do it with such a sense of purpose, but even higher than that, elegance and grace. And I just want you to know we have enjoyed serving with you. It has been an extraordinary honor. We will miss you. I will miss you. But I know that our friendship continues. And I know that on a day daily basis, you are continuing to carry the flag for public safety, not only in your day job, but in everything that you do outside of it. And we know we'll continue to be able to call on you. And as I said before, just thank you, thank you, thank you for your lifelong commitment to public safety. We wish you had we had you a little bit longer, but hopefully you'll you'll boomerang back to the Board and we'll we'll get the the benefit of your expertise once again. So thank you, my dear friend, and we wish you well.

Richard Carrizzo:

Thank you.

Sylvia Moir:

Thank you.

Richard Carrizzo:

Mayor Billy Hughes, the mayor of Gulfport, Mississippi. He's been mayor since 2013, which shows his ability for leadership, how to do things in communities, and maybe it's the way he sells to people, but he is a strong leader. He came to this Board with a strong passion for weather

related activities, representing elected officials, and all he wanted to do was help all public safety when no one else could communicate. He wanted to make sure that when weather related activities and other emergencies happen that people could talk. The Mayor brought a sense of life to the fullest. That's what I get from Billy when he's in a room. He believes in live life to the fullest while doing work that needs to be done to the fullest at the same time. He's an individual. He's always the first to show up and the last to leave when a crisis hits. What most people don't know about Billy though, he also is in a band, Cut Bait, that's recorded many records and he shared those many times with the Board and, and it's just a different side of Billy that you don't get to see many times. He's a strong leader, strong community leader that loves his community and the people that live in it. And most importantly, I know from talking to him over the last six years, he is such a strong family man and believes in his family more than anything. I'm glad to call Billy my friend and I now turn it over to you, Billy.

Billy Hewes:

Thank you, my friend. That's exactly how I wrote it. I appreciate you reading it that way. And Mike and Sarah as a future note to the Board members that are coming on, advise them never to follow Joe Wassel or Sylvia Moir as speakers because they are remarkable articulators of our emotion, our position, and our needs. So thank you all for your service. You know, words really are insufficient to sum up the the depth of my appreciation for having had this opportunity in the last six years to serve at this level on a Board of such tremendous impact. When I was first approached about an interest, if I might have an interest in serving on the Board, I really didn't know a lot about FirstNet. Said tell me more. And as a policy maker at the Capitol and as a mayor, I had shared a lot of frustration in talking with folks from different agencies about the parochialism that exists if everybody likes their toys, but nobody shares well or communicates. And it's fine until you know what hits the fan. And so I was really heartened to know that there was a federal initiative in the form of FirstNet to make that difference and to provide a platform for our first responders to communicate with each other, with other agencies. Because, you know, as I told Sean and I talked, if, if it's not working, it's not working at all, if it's got to work in an emergency, when it's when it's tough. And so like all of you, I embrace the work, but I was really taken aback in the most wonderful way to to learn about the, the background and the, the, the depth of diversity from an experience standpoint, from a geographic standpoint, from just just your, your personal experiences as well, what you brought to the table. Every single person on this Board that has preceded us and are to come. I believe they're here for a reason. And it's that it's that mix that really, really has made the difference because we talked about things that said man never thought about that or that way. But the essence of this organization is that it is mission-driven and principle centered. And it always comes down to that one common denominator. It is by and far the first responders and we understand that completely. And that is one thing that is the common denominator of everybody who who sits in these chairs, the importance of making the difference for our public. So I'm grateful for the Congress to dedicate this amount of funding and, and, and, and attention to an, an effort that is so monumental that most folks won't have an appreciation for.

To the staff, I have not seen an organization where everybody gets it as well and understands that we have a calling and a mission and it is straight ahead every single day. And I appreciate it. And I'm going to quote Joe, Joe Wassel - if I can do it. He said, "I am super excited about the future of FirstNet" and, and know that just because we're rolling off the Board, our commitment to

FirstNet does not end. If anything, I think it is enhanced and we, I can speak for all of us collectively, are available to you as a resource. But as Richard Rich said, relationships are important to all of us and they certainly are to me. And the fact that I've had the opportunity to get to know each of y'all and call you dear and fast friends is a gift. And so I'm at your disposal, and my invitation to come see us down in south Mississippi is always open and stands. So thank you and God bless.

Richard Carrizzo:

Thank you, Billy. Paul Patrick is nothing but all about the EMS community - I think his whole life. And always doing the right things. Paul's had quite a career in the field of emergency medical services. He worked for the state of Utah and he oversaw the EMS and Preparedness Office. Some don't know, some do. Paul has been part of the FirstNet drive from the early days of the D Block, working to pass that legislation and create FirstNet. And he didn't do it to sit on this Board. He did it for public safety. He did it for the EMS providers. He did it for the law enforcement and the fire service and emergency managers. He served on the PSAC since the inception of the PSAC in 2013, and actually became the PSAC chair in 2018. He would do anything for another human. Anything. He's a gentleman, that I call friend. And what others don't know, he loves Disney. He goes to the Kingdom whenever he can. I just wish he would think more of the Chief's Kingdom than the Disney Kingdom. And Paul, I'll turn it over to you.

Paul Patrick:

Thank you. And Disney's a wonderful place to go to. You know, you can just enjoy that. I'm, I'm so grateful for that. But more than that, I'm grateful for the six years and previous to that from the inception, the time that I've been able to work and, and be involved with FirstNet from concept to where we are now. What a wonderful opportunity it's been for me. And, and I would be remiss to not say thank you to the staff that have been involved from the beginning to now and the the great support that they have given me. I'm kind of needy at times and they've been there to help me and, and, and not make me feel bad about being needy. And that's also very important. But all of the staff, the current and past, thank you so much for what you've done and what you continue to do for the Board. And to follow what Sylvia and Billy said and all the rest of you and your sentiments are truly amazing. The one thing that I also am extremely proud of is my Native American heritage and my work with the Tribal Nations and Indian Country and continue to appreciate the the current move towards Tribal, territorial and rural. And you're in my state. I call my state, I don't own it, but you're in Utah right now. We have a huge rural area as well as some great Tribal lands. And I've seen the benefit of FirstNet, of communications, more importantly of public safety, and even more importantly than that of what's happened for emergency medical services. The lives that have been saved, the treatments that have been given, the ability to actually go out and communicate back to medical facilities and talk directly to extremely knowledgeable doctors and staff to get advice of how to render care on the scene to the individual and often times prevent them from having to go through long transports is amazing. And I know that's going to be something that will continue. So those are kind of some of the things that I just wanted to say thank you for and and the love that - and we can use the word love - the love that I have for the current Board members and previous ones are there as well as the FirstNet Authority staff. And for you Chief, I appreciate the friendship that we have developed. It's fun to look back at some of those initial pictures of young you and young me when the legislation was signed and we were standing there in the background on the stage and

to see where we've come from there to here. And so for that, I just say thank you to everybody. And I certainly appreciate and will continue to be engaged and involved in developing FirstNet as it moves forward to our public safety community. Thank you so much.

Richard Carrizzo:

Thank you, Paul. Brian Crawford. A true friend. Only if you know, for almost 25 years, he and I have been friends. We first met as the Shreveport Fire and Rescue team arrived at a church in Baton Rouge about 1:00 AM. They spent days on the levees of New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina. And they brought in people that they'd rescued to dry off. And that's where Brian and I first met and worked together through Katrina in Baton Rouge. And our friendship and respect for each other just has continued to grow. And we stayed close for those 25 years. Brian's always provided leadership to public safety with many roles as a fire chief and has always been a national speaker on leadership and organizational cultures. When Brian left the fire service, so he quickly went into the healthcare system, not much different than the fire service and the EMS background that he had just became more of an administrator in that field. He's in one of the largest systems in Louisiana, hospital systems. We don't even know that we both had applied for this position on the Board at all. We hadn't talked about it until we both arrived in DC for the first meeting and we were both extremely shocked that we both were chosen first of all and that the two friends could be on a Board together like this. Brian's leadership and financial background made him an easy choice to be the finance chairman and has been leading that committee since 2020. Brian, I'm so grateful for the friendship we've had over the years and I will turn it over to you now.

Brian Crawford:

Thanks, Chief Carrizo, You know, when we we first darkened the door of FirstNet in, in the first meeting in December of of 2018. Golly, hard to believe. Six years ago, the fearsome foursome of Mayor Hughes and Paul Patrick, myself and Rich Carrizo, the network had no idea who they had appointed. And and I can tell you, yeah, you know, and being in the room of of some giants of technology and as you know, Joe talked about the titles of chairmans of boards and government officials and public safety. It was, it was intimidating to say the least, to see if golly did they pick the right guys and specifically myself, did I belong amongst this group. And so in 6 years of reflection, you know, it's it's 30 years of public safety. I look back and and see that this group has seen more happen in six years with a network because we're at the vortex of that, that, that ground where we're on the shoulders of those people. In 2012 when the legislation was passed, incredible hard work and, and, and carrying that with the Jeff Johnsons and the Sue Swensons and, and, and what a lot of people said would never happen. There would never be a dedicated spectrum. They will never dedicate billions of dollars to making sure public safety had the optimal tool that they needed along with their their law enforcement tools, that they have, the firefighting tools, the emergency management tools. There is nothing better that has come along in the last 200 years for this country to help situational awareness to save lives of firefighters, police officers, EMS workers, emergency managers, and all of those who risk their lives every day. Than knowing what they are confronting going in because of the technology that's available today and is provided like no other than FirstNet. Priority and preemption, we own it. Others can say they have it, they don't have it. A dedicated core. 5G spectrum. They don't have it. They say they have it, they don't have it. The fact that we are sometimes attacked and the network is sometimes maligned because we have been incredibly successful in it. Every natural and man-

made disaster that has happened in the six years that I have been on the Board, FirstNet has been there. They have been there with boots on the ground with a ROG teams. They have been there with the deployables that have been a game changer for disasters in this country.

When you have networks go down left and right and you look up in a wildfire situation for a firefighter that needs that tool in his hand so he can know where that firefighter is coming off of that mountain to save his crew. And the only thing that can help him is a deployable asset into the middle of that region that will give him this technology so he has that communications ability. Nobody else does that. And so as we are on the precipice of reauthorization in a couple of years, Congress needs to hear those stories more and more. Are we under a microscope? Absolutely. We encourage it, Bring it on. This network was built for public safety, by public safety and does things that nobody else does. And we have shown that in the short time. We are still at the beginning of this network and what we can do with our public private partnership that we have that is like no other.

And so as our six years comes to an end here, we hand off that that torch, that mantle. We pass it to the next generation of Board members. We pass it to the next generation of public safety individuals that will see incredible advances in technology just over the next couple of years and allowing them, through FirstNet, to be able to save more lives, more property, make differences like never before. This is the greatest achievement and accomplishment in my lifetime, and I will be able to look back on this and say that I served with a group of individuals on a Board and in a staff and at NTIA and the Department of Commerce. Secretary Raimondo and her incredible foresight to bring this group together to do things that will be looked at in 100 years. Looking back and going this was the difference maker, these people being able to stand on that wall and do something that has never been done before in the history of this country, that is something to be proud of and it's something not to back away from. It's something to advance and stand tall for and we've all done that. I am confident I am secure in the leadership of this Board going forward and that we have left it in better hands than we found it. And so having said that I have a flight to catch in 10 minutes. So I'm just incredibly grateful to be able to be here with with these individuals. And at the end, at the end of the day, they are my friends. They are my cohorts. And I'm excited to see what FirstNet is going to achieve after I'm off the Board. But will always be, like Sylvia said, I'm your biggest cheerleader. So thank you.

Richard Carrizzo:

Thank you, Brian. And I can't really add anything that the other Board members had said, but I do want to say thank you to the entire team of FirstNet for all that you've done over the six years, the previous time, for all the other Boards and all the Boards that were prior to us and what their vision was and our vision of this Board. And I'm looking forward to the future of the next Board and the future Boards for the entire time that FirstNet exists. So thank you to the full team and thank you to the present Board for all that you've done and your continued support as we move forward for public safety. With that, I would love to have a motion to close this meeting out unless there's any other comments from Board members.

Billy Bob Brown Jr:

Chair, this is Billy Bob Brown Junior. I make a motion to adjourn.

Richard Carrizzo:

Thank you, Billy Bob. Do I have a second?

Sean McDevitt:

Mr. Chairman, this is Sean McDevitt. I make a motion to second.

Richard Carrizzo:

Thank you, Sean. All in favor say aye.

All:

Aye.

Richard Carrizzo:

Anyone opposed, say no. Hearing none. Are there any abstentions? Hearing none. I want to thank everyone who participated in the Combined Board Committees Meeting today and to the audience who joined us over Webex. It is very important for people to listen in and find out what their network is doing for them. I consider this meeting now adjourned.