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NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION
FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY
COMBINED BOARD AND COMMITTEES MEETING TRANSCRIPT
December 11, 2024

Board Chair, Keisha Lance Bottoms: Good morning, everyone. Today we are convening for the First Responder Network Authority’s Combined Board and Committees Meeting. I am the new Board Chair, Keisha Lance Bottoms, and I am grateful to Secretary Raimondo for this appointment. And I want to congratulate all of our newly appointed Board members.

Several are new to the Board, as am I, and will have a chance to do introductions shortly. Welcome to my Board colleagues and the FirstNet Authority team and thank you to everyone who is joining us today. The Board is pleased to be meeting in Boulder, Colorado at the Boulder County Sheriff’s Office. Let’s review the agenda for today’s meeting.

We will start with an introduction of our seven new Board members and two new designees and review Board committee assignments. We will then receive a Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) update from PSAC Chair, Chris Lombard, and updates from the Board’s Advocacy, Finance and Investment, and Programs and Future Planning Committees. FirstNet Authority Executive Director and CEO, Joe Wassell and I will then introduce the Board and FirstNet Authority priorities for fiscal year 2025. I would ask our Board Secretary to call the roll for the Board and confirm that each committee has a quorum. Madam Secretary, please call the roll and then read the conflicts of interest statement.

Jennifer Watts: Thank you, Chair. I will mark you as present. Renee Gordon?

Renee Gordon: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Sheriff Adkinson?

Michael Adkinson: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Billy Bob Brown, Jr.?

Billy Bob Brown Jr.: Present online.

Jennifer Watts: Hugh Clements Jr.?

Hugh Clements Jr.: Present online as well.

Jennifer Watts: Damon Darsey?

Damon Darsey: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Alexandra Fernández Navarro?

Alexandra Fernández Navarro: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Erik Gaull?

Erik Gaull: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Sean McDevitt?

Sean McDevitt: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Warren Mickens?

Warren Mickens: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Jocelyn Moore?

Jocelyn Moore: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Chief Norman?

Jeffrey Norman: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Rasheid Scarlett?

Rasheid Scarlett: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Austin Turner?

Austin Turner: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Chief Wolford?

Trisha Wolford: Present.

Jennifer Watts: Madam 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 conflict 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.

Keisha Lance Bottoms: Thank you, Madam Secretary. Each member of the Board has before him or her the minutes of the August meeting of the Board. Are there any additions or corrections to those minutes? Hearing none, I will take a motion that we accept these minutes.

Jocelyn Moore: This is Board member, Jocelyn Moore, I make a motion that we accept the minutes.

Keisha Lance Bottoms: Thank you. Is there a second?

Warren Mickens: This is Board member, Warren Mickens. I second the motion.

Keisha Lance Bottoms: Thank you. All in favor, please say aye.

All: Aye.

Keisha Lance Bottoms: Opposed, please indicate by saying nay. Are there any abstentions? The August meeting minutes are accepted. Madam Secretary, please make the minutes available to the public following this meeting. We're going to take a moment for our new Board members and designees to briefly introduce themselves. I'll start and then we will go around and have introductions from each of our members.

I am Keisha Lance Bottoms, a former Mayor of Atlanta and Senior advisor to the President for Public Engagement. In a strong mayor form of government in Atlanta, I had the opportunity to lead our public safety efforts in the city of Atlanta. I was very proud to have been responsible for the largest pay increase in the history of Atlanta to our police officers and the largest pay increase to our firefighters in over 50 years in Atlanta. I share that with you because I know support of our public safety personnel is important not just in word, but also in deed. That's why I'm honored to be a part of this. FirstNet Board. Atlanta hosted several large-scale events including the Super Bowl, the NBA All Star Game, and the National College Championship Game. So I know firsthand how important it is that our public safety personnel be able to coordinate across state, federal, and local levels and have a reliable network that allows them to do their job not just efficiently, but also safely. So, thank you again for allowing me to serve as your Chair. I look forward to working with each of you. And with that, Sheriff Adkinson, I will toss it to you for a brief introduction.

Michael Adkinson: Good morning. Thank you, Madam Chair. Mike Adkinson, Walton County Sheriff. I'm a five-term sheriff from the panhandle of Florida. Walton County Sheriff's Office is a little bit different in that we are an all-hazard approach. We encompass both Fire, Rescue, as well as all communication, law enforcement operations, jail, and all animal services. Over the past 10 years I've really had the opportunity to work statewide in Florida and in areas that I thought FirstNet was going to be a vital asset, including writing the opt in letter for Florida back in 2018. I look forward to working with each of you and I think that this is a mission-oriented

Board, and I have enjoyed the conversations we had, which shows that everyone, as we say, different uniforms, same team. So, thank you.

Keisha Lance Bottoms: Thank you, Sheriff. Now to Dr. Damon Darsey.

Damon Darsey: Hey, good morning. I'm Damon, EMS emergency medicine physician from the state of Mississippi. Rural EMS Medical Director for a number of services, also Medical Director for the Mississippi Department of Public Safety. Long history of broadband and is used to improve medical care in rural America and for our rural providers and also for the health and wellness of our public safety providers. Looking forward to this crew. We're going to have a good time. We're going to do the mission work and we're going to make it work. Thanks guys.

Keisha Lance Bottoms: Thank you, Dr. Darsey. Erik Gaul.

Erik Gaul: Good morning. My name is Erik Gaul. I have been a first responder in all disciplines dating back to 1980. I'm an emergency manager now the Secretary of the International Association of Emergency Managers. I'm a member of the Executive Committee of the Emergency Services Sector Coordinating Council out of DHS and I'm one of three co-chairs of the National Homeland Security Consortium. Prior to joining the Board here, I had about three and a half years in the wireless telecom industry and I was very pleased to have to resign my position due to conflict of interest so I could join this Board, which I value as an opportunity unlike any other that I've had. So, I'm very pleased to be here and I look forward to serving.

Keisha Lance Bottoms: Thank you, Erik. Chief Jeffrey Norman.

Jeffrey Norman: Good morning, everyone. Chief Jeffrey Norman here. Chief of Milwaukee Police Department. Served in law enforcement almost 30 years. Serving four years as a Chief, the chief of a major city, part of the Major City Chiefs Association, and got to intimately interact with FirstNet, especially in regard to major incidents such as the recent Republican National Convention and also the Republican National Debate. The first one. Seeing the work at first hand really gave me a deeper appreciation of the work of what FirstNet does, and that is prior to being a part of this work and being in this illustrious group here. Knowing that we're all on the same agenda, working to ensure that we are providing the best communication service to our public safety. So really appreciate to be a part of this and looking forward to the work.

Keisha Lance Bottoms: Thank you so much, Chief. Now we will hear from Rasheid Scarlett.

Rasheid Scarlett: Hello. So, my name is Rasheid Scarlett. I'm the CEO of an IT development company with a strong focus on mission network or mission critical networks. I reside in the Miami area, but I split my time between there and DC. I've got over 25 years of experience with telecommunications network infrastructure, and I've had the privilege of leading complex networks for both the U.S. government and many major telecommunication providers. So, my experience spans from systems architecture, network engineering, satellite communications, but again, a strong focus on critical mission critical infrastructures, which I consider FirstNet to be one. So, I'm just honored to be part of the Board and just look forward to contributing however I can.

Keisha Lance Bottoms: Thank you, Rasheid. Chief Trisha Wolford.

Trisha Wolford: Good morning, everyone. My name is Trisha Wolford, Fire Chief for Anne Arundel County, Maryland, one of the largest combination fire departments in the country. I also serve on the International Association of Fire Chiefs Board as their First Vice President and then also as the Board Secretary for the Metro Chiefs organization. Looking forward to the work and thank you for allowing me to be part of the mission.

Keisha Lance Bottoms: Thank you. Now we will hear from Hugh Clements Jr.

Hugh Clements Jr.: Good morning, Madam Chair and Board members. My name is Hugh Clements. I had a 38-year career with the Providence, Rhode Island police department. I was honored to serve the last twelve of those as the Chief of the department. In January of 2023, I was named as the Director of the COPs office. This is an office that delivers grants, training, and technical assistance and resources to all of the 18,000 state, local, tribal, and territorial agencies. I consider this a real privilege to have been selected by the DOJ to serve on this important Board, as I care passionately about providing the essential tools for law enforcement and public safety to carry out our critical role.

Keisha Lance Bottoms: Thank you. And last, but not least, we will hear from Austin Turner.

Austin Turner: Hi. Good morning. My name is Austin Turner. I'm a career senior executive at the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. I'll be serving as a designee for OMB. I look forward to working with the Board and the Authority to support public safety. Thank you.

Keisha Lance Bottoms: Thank you and thanks to all of you all. And thank you all for your service. I look forward to working with each of you. And looking at our new Board committee membership, I'm pleased to announce that Sheriff Michael Adkinson will chair the Governance and Risk Committee. Chief Trisha Wolford will chair the Advocacy Committee. Sean McDevitt will chair the Finance and Investment Committee, and Rasheid Scarlett will chair the Programs and Future Planning Committee. We have a full membership for each committee listed here on this slide. The mix of talent and expertise in each committee will be helpful for each committee's work and the work of the Board as a whole. So, I want to thank all of you all again for your willingness to serve and I look forward to your individual contributions and working closely with the committees to advance our mission. Now we have an updated from the Public Safety Advisory Committee Chair, Chief Chris Lombard.

Chris Lombard: Thank you very much, Chair Lance Bottoms and congratulations on your appointment as well as to all the new Board members and designees. I will observe that in the finest traditions of the Department of Commerce appointing the Board members that between myself, Chief Wolford, and Erik Gaull that it has the Commerce continues to see that it takes quite a few more law enforcement people and law enforcement backgrounds to balance out and reach the quality with those of us from the fire service. Next slide please.

I want to share this slide with you all, which highlights the PSAC and the Tribal Advocacy Group, or the TAG, member locations and where they serve in their full time capacity. Not that this was a prerequisite for building out the PSAC, but you see that we have a pretty nationwide distribution, short of a few locations, mainly here in the Mountain Time Zone. This tool is useful for us and the FirstNet Authority as we consider emergent notifications such as outages, natural disasters, planned events for members in their regions. It's also helpful as it relates to continued advocacy across the country for FirstNet. One of the things that doesn't really reflect on this slide is that we also tried to attain diversity as far as the size of agencies across the different disciplines between law enforcement, fire, EMS, governance and whatnot as well. Next slide, please.

As we are here at the end of 2024 and for the benefit of the new Board members, I thought I'd recap a bit on what the PSAC has accomplished in 2024. The full PSAC meets bimonthly via Teams for our virtual teleconference. During the 2024 calls, we received briefings from FirstNet Authority staff who highlighted some FirstNet emergent developments and planned events, including network performance and user experience. We often receive briefings from across the country on FirstNet use cases compiled from the FirstNet Authority staff. For example, we heard some interesting examples of push-to-talk use from an agency in Georgia that has gone completely to the FirstNet push-to-talk to other agencies who are interconnecting their LMR network with FirstNet. The use case has continued to evolve and is of critical interest to many of our PSAC members. On the most recent meeting, we received a briefing from the FirstNet Authority on coverage enhancements and reinvestment and learned more about the plan to collaborate and with the public safety on this issue. Also, Shawn Talmadge from the National Governors Association received the Patriot Award, and I humbly accepted the Harlin McEwen Award, a tremendous honor and thankful very much for that.

The PSAC and FirstNet Authority staff continued to collaborate more to engage with public safety. We continue to deliver FirstNet 101 information and it's part of educating public safety. We've also participated in demonstrations, live events with FirstNet network use and conferences, which have provided valuable insight and information to the FirstNet Authority as well as PSAC members. One event I'd like to highlight in particular was a user group with one of our executive committee members, Chief Brian Schaeffer. He recently joined the Columbia, Missouri Fire Department and pulled together folks from all disciplines from the area to learn about FirstNet uses, challenges and needs from agencies related to event planning and broadband technologies. It was productive and fruitful, for the for the FirstNet Authority as well as attending agencies who received data and examples on best practices for the First Network, FirstNet Network.

The Tribal Advisory Group, or the TAG, has met several times this year. I've had the privilege to attend most of their meetings. The Board support by Jocelyn Moore was very appreciated by the TAG members as well. The TAG regularly receives updates about FirstNet deployment specific to Indian Country. They have also expanded their membership, which is another way tribal specific associations or Indian Country sections within associations are getting the FirstNet message across to tribal nations and ensuring they are heard. In addition to all the conferences and events, TAG members in a I'm sorry, in addition to all the conferences and events, TAG members and Jasper Bruner are able to attend. Next slide, please.

As we take a look at the next year, the PSAC will be conducting the biannual reappointment process in March. Each association on the PSAC has an opportunity to appoint a new member or to reappoint a current PSAC member. Many PSAC members have enjoyed the opportunity to serve on the PSAC for several years, going back to the early days, way before partnerships with AT&T, and really appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the future of public safety communications in this way. We're looking forward to our meeting tomorrow and learning more about the coverage enhancement opportunities and we hope to continue collaboration with Board members whether at conferences or at other field type events, agency visits to see FirstNet use or whatnot. Of course, we'll see lots of public safety innovators and technology enthusiasts in my home region, Seattle, Bellevue this coming summer. Looking forward to hosting such a great event at the five at what 5x5 has become up in the other Washington. The TAG is planning to meet in Oklahoma next spring at the same time as the Board meeting. We're all looking forward to that as well and the participation across with the tribal entities. If there's no questions, that concludes my update and I'll turn the floor back to over to you, Chair Lance Bottoms.

Keisha Lance Bottoms: Thank you very much. If there are no questions, we will move on. Thank you Chief. We will have an update now from Advocacy Committee Chair, Chief Wolford.

Trisha Wolford: Thank you very much, Madame Chair. I appreciate the prompt and I would first like to start with thanking our previous Advocacy Chair, which was Sheriff Sylvia Moir. I thank her for her dedication and work, and I look forward to carrying things on for the rest of the group. Thank you to all the new members that are joining Advocacy, and for all of you on the Board that your name was not on the slide, but you are all part of Advocacy. So, I look forward to the full collaboration and to meeting our mission. I'll begin with some public safety engagement accomplishments over FY 2024 and over the course of that fiscal year which ended on September 30th, 2024. Our team participated in more than 1,400 public safety engagements and reached nearly 53,000 stakeholders across 56 states, territories and federal agencies. The team hosted 46 public safety tours in our Boulder facility. This was to demonstrate our FirstNet capabilities to more than 200 visitors. We were fortunate to host various stakeholders across the public safety agencies and across the country through all levels of government and industries were represented from academia and other areas that participate in all of our outreach events.

Through our engagements this year, the team gathered public safety feedback on their use of FirstNet as well as their agency's respective operational needs. This will be used to inform our future investments and public safety's direct feedback will continue to help us expand and enhance our network. The feedback from this year aligns to a few high level themes. Coverage. First, macro coverage is the most common public safety need. As we frequently hear, coverage is king. Stakeholders share specific coverage needs and challenges in both urban and rural environments. Notification. Consistent with what we heard last year and highlighted by the February 22, 2024, outage, stakeholders need timely outage notification for visibility and awareness. Enhancement. As stakeholders explore, adopt and operationalize push-to-talk solutions, they are identifying potential enhancements and outstanding needs that specifically relate to the applications themselves, the devices and interoperability challenges. This input drives our enhancements to our mission critical service offerings. And most importantly the user. We will continue our engagements with public safety and are committed to addressing their

unique communication challenges and needs with our FirstNet network. We can move to the next slide please.

Here are some public safety enhancement highlights. As we typically do, I'd like to highlight a few of our examples of our engagement with public safety during the past few months. In October, the team attended the International Association of Chiefs of Police, where we call IACP, the 2024 annual Conference held in Boston, Massachusetts. This is the largest law enforcement event in the year with more than 18,000 law enforcement leaders. It provides us the best chance to connect with leaders across agencies on various topics that are important to FirstNet. The team delivered FirstNet briefings to more than a dozen IACP committees and sections, as well as the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, or what we also call NOBLE, and an executive board. They also had the opportunity to attend concurrent association conferences including Major Cities Chiefs Association, Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies, and Police Executive Research Forum.

Since the last Board meeting, the team has provided virtual and on-site planning to support local, state and federal public safety stakeholders for many planned events. This support is part of the Network Experience Engagement program that our Public Safety Advocacy team offers. The Plan to Rent events range from presidential campaign events to the Las Vegas Formula One race to several air shows at naval stations across the Southeast. We also supported stakeholders at all levels during hurricane response and recovery operations for both Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton. The team coordinated regularly with AT&T in support of events and incidents nationwide.

Just last week, the team and I attended the International Association of Fire Chiefs Third Annual Technology Summit International in Oklahoma City. This conference is dedicated to the practical implication implementation of technology in the fire service, which attracts a uniquely positioned subset of fire service personnel who are solely focused on technology implementation. The team delivered a keynote regarding FirstNet Authority investments and participated in a panel on firefighter life safety and the role of connected technologies. We solicited public safety feedback through a couple of avenues including a focus group, on outage notifications, and through our shared booth space with our colleagues at NIST Public Safety Communications Research Division. They were also a great participant and always a great partner. I would like to now invite a Board member, Erik Gaull, to share his experience at the International Associations of Emergency Managers Annual Conflict Conference that he attended last month.

Erik Gaull: Great. Thank you, Chief. I was in attendance at the International Association of Emergency Managers Conference in Colorado Springs, November 18th through 20th. The IAM Conference is the largest emergency management conference in the world with approximately 25 attend 2,500 attendees from across the United States, its tribal nations and territories, as well as numerous members from abroad. I spent time in the FirstNet booth with three PSAs Ehrin Ehlert, Tracey Murdock, and Bruce Fitzgerald, and collectively we were able to interact with and obtain feedback from a large number of stakeholders across the three days of the conference.

Trisha Wolford: Thank you, Sir. Appreciate the participation and the update. My last update will be 5x5, which Chief Lombard already touched on. But as many of you have seen, and if you have not, registration is now open, 5x5 2025, and we will be going to Bellevue, Washington, which is right outside Seattle. The dates are June 3rd through the 5th, and we hope everyone can attend. The team has already been working very hard with NIST and PSCR putting together a packed three-day agenda. We'll have keynotes, technology demonstrations, breakout sessions, and always some great deep dive conversations. This will be on everything from practical technology use, research and development, and anything else that our leaders in the public safety world need from us. We look forward to another great year, and we look forward to seeing everyone there. Madam Chair, this concludes my report. Thank you.

Keisha Lance Bottoms: Thank you, Chief Wolford. We will now receive an update from Finance and Investment Committee Chair, Sean McDevitt.

Sean McDevitt: Thank you, Chair Lance Bottoms. It's a pleasure to be with you here today to welcome you to your new role as Board Chair and to welcome all the new Board members who have joined and the designees. So, thank you very much. First, thank you to Brian Crawford, who was the prior Finance and Investment Committee Chair for many years, who did an outstanding job. I'm also thankful that this committee will have a very strong head start as we have two returning members to this committee, both Jocelyn Moore and Warren Mickens, plus the addition of Austin and Rasheid. So, we feel very confident about our committee. We have a brief update this morning. If I could have the next slide please.

During the first two months of the fiscal year 2025, the Authority has obligated a cumulative total of \$28.8 million. This is well within the forecast parameters of our fiscal year 2025 operational budget. The Board and the FirstNet Authority are working very closely together to be efficient and financially prudent and fiscally responsible with the operational funds that we have so that the maximum amount of dollars can be reinvested into the network for public safety. We will continue to move forward on the planned investments and previously announced network coverage expansions and enhancements to continue to deliver a high-quality network for public safety. Madam Chair, this concludes the Finance and Investment Committee report. Thank you.

Keisha Lance Bottoms: Thank you, Sean. We will now receive an update from Programs and Future Planning Committee Chair, Rasheid Scarlett.

Rasheid Scarlett: Thank you, Chair Lance Bottoms. I just wanted to restate that I am just honored to be part of this team and to be selected as a Chair committee. I have certainly very big shoes to fill in and I'm just honored and also honored with the the team member the team members that have been appointed to the team. I am I'm confident that we'll do very well. Next slide please.

So as you can see on the slide, FirstNet has grown to more than 6.4 million connections with over 29,000 public safety agencies and organizations subscribed. There are over 865 FirstNet ready devices and over 200 unique apps in the FirstNet app catalog. There has been over 2,250 solutions triaged and deployed for the for public safety in 2024, which includes over 180 dedicated deployable network assets including flying cell on wings or COWS, satellite cell on

light trucks, or SAT Colts, and compact rapid deploy deployables, CRDS. FirstNet continues to see growth and we anticipate this momentum will only continue as additional investments to expand coverage and improved technology capabilities for the network will start to be realized in this coming year. Madam Chair, this concludes the Program and Future Planning Committee update.

Keisha Lance Bottoms: Thank you, Rasheid. I'd like now for us to discuss the Board and FirstNet Authority's priorities for fiscal year 2025 with FirstNet Authority Executive Director and CEO, Joe Wassell. Joe, please start us off.

Joe Wasel: Good morning. Thank you, Mayor Lance Bottoms. Madam Chair, thank you so much. Welcome new Board members and returning Board members. As we look to 2025 with energy, enthusiasm and excitement, we also look to 2025 with action for public safety. Our nation's first responders are called to 24 hours, seven days a week, year round support of our nation. The network we oversee must also work as they work. If there is degradation or capability that we owe the first responders, we owe them information, we owe them enable execution to their to tell them to execute their pace plan primary, alternate, contingency and emergency plans and ensure restoration of capability to full services as quick as possible. Readiness is key.

As we looked at 2025, we break down into four priorities. Reauthorization is critical. The Middle-Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, which created the FirstNet Authority, can change the provision that sunsets the organization in February 2027. Congressional reauthorization will enable FirstNet Authority to continue its vital role managing and overseeing FirstNet to ensure the public safety community has the broadband communication tools it needs to perform its critical tasks. Over the next 10 years, we are committed to spending \$8.3 billion on coverage enhancement and network evolution. The Authority and the Board is committed to reinvesting these funds to enhance and evolve the network and keep pace with technology innovations. The FirstNet Authority is committed to be a responsible steward of its investments, its resources, and continuously improving its investment decision-making processes and ensure transparency with respect to those processes and resources that are used to evolve the network and execute our congressional mandates.

As we think and act for public safety, we will think critically about how best to support our first responders and make decisions informed by all domains, all disciplines, and all echelons in which FirstNet operates. We will explore space to ground capabilities while operating into the cyberspace domain and supporting operations in the air, on the land, by sea and in subterranean domains. We will consider first responders operating at all echelons of government in all disciplines, fire, law enforcement, emergency medical services, emergency communications 911, and emergency management specialists. And we seek to meet their broadband communications needs to the areas they serve in mountainous terrains, dense forest and island settings.

The next priority of culture, this is a culture of information sharing and partnership. The success of the FirstNet Authority depends on its people that it employs. We will continue to optimize our organizational resources and align FirstNet Authority to future strengthen our programs for public safety in education and training awareness and in advocacy.

As we think about organizational excellence, we will continue to be diligent and provide oversight to the national, the nationwide public safety Broadband network contract. We will also work with the Public Safety Advisory Committee and the National Security Emergency Preparedness Partners to elevate conversations on public safety across the full spectrum of first responders. We will pursue organizational excellence so that we can deliver the best network experience for public safety. And we will do it all with a new Board at our helm guiding the way.

I look forward to working with all of you and wish you all a happy holiday season. And if I may, on a personal note, as I think about when I wore the uniform during the holiday seasons, some of my proudest moments as an Air Force officer was to sit the watch in the Pentagon and overseas on Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve, other holidays that are special, too many cultures throughout our country. I hope all of us, and I know all of us will be thinking about public safety as they take the watch over the next few weeks of these critical weeks over the holidays, as we all are with our families. They have the watch. Our network will be up, it will be operational and it will be ready and we'll be ready to respond to any issues that may arise. We will have an eye to public safety and an ear to the network. Thank you, Mayor Lance Bottoms, appreciate the opportunity to share some priorities for 2025.

Keisha Lance Bottoms: Thank you, Joe, for sharing those priorities. And I want to take an opportunity to thank you, Joe, the entire FirstNet staff, our returning Board members, and our previous Board Chair, Chief Richard Carrizo. You all have worked tirelessly to make sure that this has been a seamless transition for all of the new Board members and we appreciate your continued service. I'm excited and thankful for the opportunity to be the new Board Chair for the FirstNet Authority. The Board is enthusiastic about supporting these priorities and assisting in any way we can.

In October 2024, AT&T announced more than 29,000 public safety agencies and organizations are using more than 6.4 million connections on FirstNet. The FirstNet Authority will continue to focus on expansion of the network to ensure first responders have coverage when and where they need it. Public safety feedback continues to be paramount. We value our partnerships with public safety and will ensure first responders continue to have a voice and expansion of FirstNet. Our team will continue to engage actively with public safety to understand their user experience on the network as well as their unique needs and challenges. As we work to implement the coverage investment, we will coordinate closely with public safety to understand their coverage needs. This is an exciting time to be involved with the continued evolution of FirstNet, and I am also looking forward to working with all of you and I wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

As we close out today's meeting, I want to thank the Boulder County Sheriff's Office for hosting us. We look forward to learning more about the unique communications challenges experienced by public safety in Boulder County. We are now prepared to adjourn this meeting. May I have a motion to adjourn?

Alexandra Fernández Navarro: This is Board member Fernández Navarro. I make a motion to adjourn.

Keisha Lance Bottoms: Thank you. Is there a second?

Billy Bob Brown Jr.: Madam Chair, this is Board designee Billy Bob Brown Junior. I second that motion.

Keisha Lance Bottoms: Thank you. All in favor say aye.

All: Aye.

Keisha Lance Bottoms: Any opposed, please indicate by saying nay. Are there any abstentions? Again, thank you to all who have participated in the Combined Board and Committee Meetings and to the audience who has joined us today. This meeting is now adjourned.