U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION
FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY
**MINUTES OF THE MAY 5, 2021 COMBINED BOARD AND COMMITTEES
MEETING 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 via WebEx on Wednesday, May 5, 2021 and began at 11: 00 AM EST. 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 Robert "Tip" Osterthaler opened the meeting by welcoming all who virtually joined the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) Combined Board and Committees meeting. In his opening statement, he reflected on how the Coronavirus (COVID-19) has impacted public safety professionals and presented new challenges for them, with first responders being on the front line of the pandemic and reporting for in-person duty. The operations of public safety are highly dependent upon secure and reliable mobile communications. Therefore, the goal over the last year has been to continue working closely with public safety agencies to gather best practices, lessons learned, and challenges faced, to advance and improve the FirstNet Network by meeting the evolving communication needs of first responders. An example of this effort is, following the Nashville, Tennessee bombing on Christmas Day 2020, the FirstNet Authority conducted an after-action review of the event with public safety stakeholders that were most impacted by the blast. Chair Osterthaler went on to mention advances that provided first responders in some cities access to 5G capabilities on the FirstNet network.

During the meeting, the Board approved the February 10, 2021 Combined Board and Committees Meeting minutes; updates to the Board Bylaws to reflect the current operations and administrative changes within the FirstNet Authority; updates to the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) Charter to include the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 realignment and language to reflect the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rule regarding states diverting 9-1-1 fees; and Board Resolution 109 with a clean version of the PSAC Charter. The Board also discussed updates from PSAC Chair Todd Early; updates from the Advocacy, Network and Technology, and Finance Committees; and closing remarks from the FirstNet Authority Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Edward Parkinson.

Roll Call
Robert "Tip" Osterthaler ("Chair"), Richard Carrizzo ("Vice Chair"), Billy Bob Brown Jr., Welton Chase, Neil Cox, Brian Crawford, Billy Hewes, Karima Holmes, Edward Horowitz, Darrin Jones, Paul Patrick, Matt Slinkard, and David Zolet. A quorum was present for the Board and Combined Committees meeting.

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 this meeting, therefore indicating no conflicts of interest, and the meeting proceeded.

Votes Taken
Prior to proceeding with the business of the day, Chair Osterthaler requested a motion to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2021 Combined Board and Committees Meeting. Matt Slinkard made the motion. Welton Chase seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the February 10, 2021 Combined Board and Committees meeting minutes to be available to the public at the end of the meeting.

The Board also voted to approve Resolution 109, FirstNet Authority Bylaws and PSAC Charter Revisions.

From time to time, the FirstNet Authority reviews the Bylaws that govern the operation of the FirstNet Authority and the Board and makes proposals to the Board for updates to align the Bylaws with changing operations and the law. This is the first major revision of the Bylaws document since 2012, when the FirstNet Authority was created.

The Board Committee Charters and the PSAC Charter are attachments to the Board Bylaws and were also updated. The only update on the four Board Committee Charters was an update of the FirstNet Authority logo. In the PSAC Charter, administrative updates were made to reflect the FY 2021 realignment to the newly added Office of Chief Market Engagement Officer (OCMEO). The Market Engagement and Operations teams worked with the FirstNet Authority Legal team to add language to reflect the recently enacted FCC statutory provision, prohibiting representatives of states and jurisdictions that are diverting 9-1-1 fees from participating in the PSAC.

David Zolet motioned to approve Resolution 109. Billy Hewes seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the resolution.

MATTERS DISCUSSED

PSAC Update
PSAC Chair Todd Early provided information on the completion of the 2021-2023 PSAC Membership Appointment and Renewal Process; the March 2021 virtual PSAC Business

meeting; updates on the Identity, Credential, and Access Management (ICAM) Strike Team; updates on the Telehealth Strike Team; and an update on the Tribal Working Group (TWG).

He noted the reappointment of six members and an additional ten new members to the Executive Committee. Below are the following new PSAC members:

- Jennifer Lord – Forestry Conservation Communications Association (FCCA)
- Brad Richy – Governors Homeland Security Advisory Council (GHSAC)
- Director John Singleton - Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA)
- Theron Rutyna – National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)
- Shawn Talmadge – National Governors Association (NGA)
- Sheriff Kieran E. Donahue – National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)
- Chief (Ret.) Gerald Reardon – SAFECOM
- Randy Moulton – U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM)
- Claude Oden – U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Benjamin Kinsey – U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)

At the virtual bi-monthly PSAC Business meeting in March 2021, PSAC members received a briefing from the Texas Department of Public Safety's Jared VandenHeuvel regarding his agency's recent experience with High Power User Equipment (HPUE) testing. In addition, the FirstNet Authority team provided an overview of the FirstNet Push-To-Talk Mutual Aid framework.

This year, the ICAM Strike Team met twice to identify and discuss public safety applications that could potentially benefit from the FirstNet ICAM solution. The ICAM Strike Team offered insights into important application and database solutions for public safety, potential challenges, and other considerations for broad ICAM adoption. The results from these discussions will be applicable to the ICAM rollout strategy, which will likely be released in the coming months.

The 2019 Telehealth Strike Team developed an introductory product that provided a mid-level view of telehealth and its ability to effectively be used by public safety. The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services selected several telehealth agencies across the nation to pilot the *Emergency Triage*, *Treat*, and *Transport* model which was delayed to January 2021 due to COVID-19. The Telehealth Strike Team has developed a project statement and will be working with a larger group of participants via survey to highlight success stories and lessons learned from using the technology at both ends of the telehealth process.

As for updates on the TWG, the NCAI reappointed Theron Rutyna as the new PSAC member, making him the TWG Chair. He is the IT Director for the Red Cliff Tribe and has been on the TWG representing the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council for over three years. He has also been involved with building the FirstNet site on the Red Cliff lands. In addition, the Inter-Tribal Emergency Management Coalition accepted an invitation to join the TWG and they nominated Jeff Thrasher, who works in the Choctaw Nation Office of Emergency Management. The TWG revised and approved the Outreach to Tribal Governments Guidance as well as the Tribes & FirstNet FAQ documents found on the FirstNet.gov website. Additional priorities for the working group include a tribal SME database to capture data, and the recording and development

of public safety podcast episodes and blogs chronicling TWG members' experiences and topics of interest to Indian Country.

Advocacy Committee Update
Committee Chairman Carrizzo thanked his team for the continued virtual engagements on numerous topics to gather feedback from stakeholders in order to improve the FirstNet experience for public safety. In April 2021, the team had the opportunity to visit the New England region and was able to meet many of the stakeholders in-person. During that visit, the team had the opportunity to show them the new Compact Rapid Deployable (CRD) that goes on the back of an SUV, which can be lifted by one person into a hitch and then deployed from any location. Last year, Chairman Carrizzo was able to assist in setting up the deployable during a wildland fire and to see it in operation. The feedback received on these have been very positive - the use, the mobility, the operations, and the quickness of setting them up, taking them down, and moving them to where they need to be. He then yielded to the Public Safety Engagement Director, representing OCMEO, David Buchanan to provide some of the accomplishments in the engagement area.

Mr. Buchanan provided information about the OCMEO's activities during the quarter ending on March 31, 2021. The team was successful in its continued effort to engage with stakeholders for feedback on the network and ways to advance the FirstNet experience by holding 449 public safety engagements, including 76 national events, and 17 FirstNet Authority hosted webinars reaching more than 7,000 public safety stakeholders. The team was able to collect 601 feedback items through conducting14 focus groups with stakeholders from 25 states around mobile applications in the FirstNet Application Catalog. The team also captured 36 operational needs and product suggestions from the mobile applications focus groups alone. The webinars last quarter addressed topics ranging from deployables to new capabilities to subscriber paid accounts. The team partnered with a fire services organization where more than 400 service professionals were able to join to have a two-way dialogue on Z-axis, situational awareness tools, and understanding how to operationalize those situational awareness opportunities.

The feedback and affirmations received from these engagements provide information on what is working, how the FirstNet network is being used, and what applications, network services, and coverage areas are most beneficial to public safety operations. The team also received feedback on use cases, best practices and other information to help FirstNet Authority understand how, when, and where public safety is using the network every day or in an emergency, and what we can learn about their use. Feedback also comes in the form of issues that need the attention and remedy of the FirstNet Authority or AT&T to be able to capture and share a deep understanding of the issues and then enhance or improve the network to be more valuable and beneficial. This information is shared via a report to the FirstNet Authority Leadership team, the FirstNet Authority Network Management team, Roadmap team, and the FirstNet Authority Investment team, and it is also shared with AT&T.

Network and Technology Committee Update
Committee Chairman Cox provided an update on the two meetings conducted since the February 2021 Combined Board and Committees meeting. In March 2021, the committee was briefed on newly released product and service offerings on the FirstNet network. The first item of interest was MegaRange, which provides a HPUE exclusively available on Band 14 and is unique to the

FirstNet network. In some cases, the range of the network was extended 20 to 30 miles. The second item of interest was a new service, FirstNet Messaging, which provides a highly secure unified messaging service. In April 2021, a detailed briefing on the location-based services included existing and planned feature releases on the new Z-axis for FirstNet, a tool with vertical location capability. FirstNet is the first to deploy Z-axis capability. Chairman Cox yielded to Chief Network and Technology Officer, Jeffery Bratcher, to provide updates on the ongoing momentum in the network deployment; recent progress in global standards; differentiated devices available for public safety users; innovative applications and solutions to operational issues faced by first responders; and progress in advancing public safety technologies through the collaboration with peers across the Department of Commerce (DOC).

According to Mr. Bratcher, on April 22, 2021, AT&T announced that the FirstNet network now has more than 2.2 million connections serving more than 16,000 public safety agencies and organizations. The expansion of Band 14 coverage remains ahead of schedule with approximately 90% completion of the promised deployment dates outlined in the 25-year contract with AT&T. In 2020, FirstNet supported and deployed over 750 assets for planned and emergency events for public safety. In order to continue to meet this demand, AT&T plans to increase its fleet of 72 dedicated deployable network assets, three Flying Cells on Wings (COWs), and a purpose-built Aerostat. A Cell-on-Wheels can be deployed by a single person in a matter of minutes and provides public safety the coverage and solution to take the network with them on short notice. In addition, AT&T has announced that public safety agencies can now purchase their own deployable network assets through the availability of the innovative CRDs.

Next, Mr. Bratcher provided technology updates on the global standards, devices, applications, and collaboration with some federal partners. The 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) is the primary global standards body for 4G and 5G wireless networks. The FirstNet Authority Standards team has continued to maintain its aggressive submission of contributions to the working groups within 3GPP to drive mission-critical public safety broadband requirements into these global standards. The 3GPP Release 17 work continues and is focused on enhancements to the building blocks for the mission-critical services over 5G, additional device-to-device direct and relay modes, multicast broadcast capability, enhanced location-based services, and the non-terrestrial network support within 3GPP with a targeted date of March 2022. Mr. Bratcher then mentioned the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions and the Telecommunications Industry Association, who are both key standards-setting organizations in North America working the functions and standards for the Land Mobile Radio Long-Term Evolution networks to the long-term 3GPP and 5G networks.

On the devices update, Mr. Bratcher explained that there are now over 300 FirstNet devices in the ecosystem, of which over 75 percent directly support the licensed Band 14 spectrum - this is a gain of almost 50 devices since the last quarter. Driving growth in this area are new smartphones, tablets, rugged handhelds, laptops, and a growing wave of public safety-relevant Internet of Things-based devices. Like Chairman Cox, Mr. Bratcher emphasized the MegaRange HPUE, a vehicular based modem and router which supports up to a 1.25 watt transmit power. MegaRange can significantly improve connectivity at the edge of network coverage, solving a common challenge of difficult coverage spots. The stronger signal may better assist those connecting from hard-to-reach areas, such as parking garages, elevators, basements, and stairwells. In addition, the FirstNet network is the only network where public safety can take

advantage of the HPUE class signaling available in the United States following 3GPP and FCC Standards. This HPUE is unique to the FirstNet network and exclusively on Band 14. The FirstNet Authority is ensuring first responders have access to the latest commercial off-the-shelf technology while also enabling them to take advantage of cost savings.

Moving on to the applications update, Mr. Bratcher mentioned the 167 applications and user solutions in the FirstNet App Catalog. Mr. Bratcher emphasized that enhancing situational awareness has been a key element within the FirstNet Roadmap, and the need to locate and share personnel location was emphasized throughout our engagements. He noted that the recent launch of the Z-axis capability via the Intrepid for FirstNet application in both Google and Apple stores is enabling this technology that public safety has needed for a long time. This offers vertical location mapping capabilities that provide a new level of indoor spatial awareness not previously available when using traditional GPS-based location methods. Other additions to the App Catalog include applications that support first responder health and wellness, shared communications, and locations of nearby automated external defibrillators.

Lastly, Mr. Bratcher discussed *Collaboration* efforts and the FirstNet Authority's role in providing program and technical assistance to the National Institute of Science and Technology Public Safety Communications Research Division (PSCR). This collaboration with PSCR continues with the support of new initiatives and ongoing research. PSCR recently launched a "pulse accelerator."   The goal is to work together in a collaborative program where participants will engage directly with specialists from business, technology, and public safety to develop plans for commercialization of their solutions. Currently, there are 12 participants in the pulse accelerator program.

The R2 Network is a $1 million grant program to advance technological innovation in two key verticals – *Response* and *Resiliency*. The program consists of three pillars - R2 Learn, R2 Portal, and R2 Connect, and it is supported by the Department of Commerce, the Economic Development Administration, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) PSCR, and the FirstNet Authority. The network of entrepreneurs, developers, investors, public safety users, and thought leaders continues their efforts to plan, develop, build, and launch new resources and tools for stakeholders throughout 2021. Public safety agencies in 35 states have already signed up.

Lastly, Mr. Bratcher announced the NIST PSCR annual conference will be held virtually from June 21-24, 2021. This has long been a key yearly event, and the organizers of this event plan to return to an in-person format in the summer of 2022.

Finance Committee Update
Committee Chairman Brian Crawford gave an update on the cumulative operations through March 31, 2021.   The FirstNet Authority is within its targeted operational boundaries of the approved Board budget through the first six months of Fiscal Year 2021 with cumulative obligations of 36.4 million, with the expectation to continue following that same positive trend. In addition, for the eighth consecutive year, the FirstNet Authority's independent auditors, Harper, Rains, Knight, and Company, provided a clean audit opinion on the FirstNet Authority financial Fiscal Year 2020 financial statements that showed no material weaknesses, no significant deficiencies, and no management level findings.

Closing Remarks
CEO Parkinson thanked the Board for its continued leadership and support for the FirstNet Authority. He spoke on the accomplishments of the FirstNet Authority including the clean audit from the Finance Committee; the number of engagements that have been hosted by the Market Engagement Team; and upgrades to the public safety broadband network from the release of the new software and skill sets involved, including HPUEs and Z-axis, which allow public safety to locate personnel in-building "height-over-terrain." He then yielded to Chair Osterthaler.

Board Adjourned
Chair Osterthaler requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Edward Horowitz made the motion, Paul Patrick seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.