

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

IN RE:

APPLICATION OF HOMELAND TOWERS,
LLC AND NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS,
LLC d/b/a AT&T FOR A CERTIFICATE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPATIBILITY AND
PUBLIC NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION,
MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF A
TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AT
ONE OF TWO SITES IN THE TOWN OF
KENT, CONNECTICUT

DOCKET NO. 488

August 4, 2020

HOMELAND TOWERS, LLC AND NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS, LLC d/b/a AT&T
HEARING INFORMATION

Homeland Towers, LLC and AT&T (the “Applicants”) respectfully submit the following hearing information for the August 11, 2020 continued evidentiary hearing for the above-referenced Application.

I. Testimony of Dan Stebbins, AT&T FirstNet Solutions Consultant

Included in Attachment 1 is testimony by Dan Stebbins, AT&T FirstNet Solutions Consultant.

II. Exhibits to be Offered

The Applicants intend to offer the following exhibit:

11. Applicants’ Supplemental Submission dated August 4, 2020.
12. Applicants’ Responses to the Siting Council’s late-filed exhibit request (to be submitted on or before August 6, 2020).

III. Documents to be Administratively Noticed

The Applicants seek Administrative Notice of:

A. Connecticut State Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEMHS/Emergency-Management/Resources-For-Officials/Interoperable-Communications/FirstNet>

B. FirstNet for Connecticut:

<https://firstnet.gov/public-safety/firstnet-for/connecticut>

- C. Connecticut Siting Council Docket No. 342 New Milford.
- D. Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (“PURA”) Docket No. 18-06-13.

The Applicants reserve the right to offer additional exhibits, testimony, witnesses and administratively noticed materials as may be necessary during hearing process and on redirect.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this day the foregoing was sent electronically to the Connecticut Siting Council and to the service list below with one hard copy sent to the Connecticut Siting Council via first class mail in accordance with Connecticut Siting Council directives:

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August 4, 2020



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ATTACHMENT 1

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
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IN RE:

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TESTIMONY OF COLONEL DAN STEBBINS (RET.)

1. Mr. Stebbins, please summarize your background and your current position with AT&T.

I have 40 years of law enforcement experience; 35 years with the Connecticut State Police where I achieved the rank of Colonel and Deputy Commissioner, the highest-ranking member of the Connecticut State Police, with responsibility for 1,131 sworn troopers and 531 civilian personnel. I was Commanding Officer in Charge of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. A summary of my experience is attached.

Approximately three years after I retired from the Connecticut State Police I was asked to be involved in the implementation of FirstNet services in Connecticut. I was known as someone who had expressed concerns about the deficiencies of the 911 system and the emergency communications network in Connecticut, having first-hand experience about the limits of first responder communication systems. After learning about FirstNet and how it improves emergency communications, I decided to come out of retirement to help deploy this important federal program for first responders.

2. Please explain FirstNet.

FirstNet is a result of a 9/11 Commission finding which identified emergency communication failures after the Twin Towers incident. The First Responder Network Authority, or FirstNet, is the only nationwide wireless broadband communications platform dedicated to first responders and the public safety community. AT&T was selected to build and manage this dedicated broadband network. FirstNet provides a dedicated lane of broadband connectivity when first responders need it. During an emergency, the FirstNet Band 14 spectrum can be cleared and locked just for use by first responders. That means only those on FirstNet will be able to access Band 14 spectrum, elevating their communications and emergency response and eliminating network congestion, which can often occur during an emergency.

3. Why is FirstNet important?

Some police and firefighters responding to 9/11 event in New York City did not get the message to evacuate the second tower due to congestion on the communications network

and they lost their lives. I had a similar communications experience in Newtown, Connecticut as the State Police Colonel responding to the Sandy Hook School shooting. Because of emergency communications limitations that day, law enforcement did not receive some information in a timely manner; there was conflicting information about the number of shooters, where the shooter(s) were located, and I was unable to speak to any trooper on the scene while on route to the school due to network congestion. As you can imagine, accurate information about an emergency in a timely manner has a significant impact on how law enforcement responds, which can be critical to saving lives.

Simply put, FirstNet greatly improves communications by providing a dedicated network for first responders. Critical information is able to be conveyed during and after the emergency as quickly as possible.

4. Will either of the Sites proposed in this proceeding be equipped with FirstNet service?

Yes. The facilities proposed in this proceeding are designed to deploy FirstNet services and to provide emergency back-up power, which is a necessary component for FirstNet services.

Without the infrastructure in place, FirstNet cannot be deployed. The northwest corner of the state is an area where we identified a void in the cellular network. For the safety of both the public and its emergency responders, this infrastructure is necessary in order to provide FirstNet services.

First responders and citizens deserve the best communications systems possible during an emergency situation. Sometimes even seconds matter when lives are in danger. The infrastructure requested here will provide your public safety and emergency responders with the best communications systems available.

COLONEL DAN STEBBINS (RET.)
BIO

Danny R. Stebbins has 40 years of law enforcement experience; 35 years with the Connecticut State Police where he achieved the rank of Colonel and Deputy Commissioner, the highest-ranking member of the Connecticut State Police, with responsibility for 1,131 sworn troopers and 531 civilian personnel.

During his career at the Connecticut State Police he served as a Resident Trooper, a dog handler, Public Information Officer, Academy instructor, was commanding officer of the Statewide Gang Task Force, and managed and implemented a \$34 million COPS award from the US Department of Justice adding 226 Troopers in Connecticut.

He also served as the commanding officer-in-charge at the Connecticut Lottery shooting in 1998 and was in-charge of the Sandy Hook Elementary School mass murder on December 14, 2012, where he implemented the innovative strategy of assigning a sworn Family Liaison Officer to every victim family.

Colonel Stebbins spent over 5 years as Intelligence Specialist at the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Connecticut. His responsibilities included coordinating the Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council for Connecticut's law enforcement community, serving as a member of Connecticut's Fusion Center, and representing the U.S. Attorney on the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinating Council. He was also co-chair of the District of Connecticut's Federal Security Committee, which governs the security of Connecticut's federal court buildings.

Col. Stebbins uses his personal experiences working in law enforcement to justify the need for improved communications interoperability and officer safety among first-responders in emergency situations, such as in rapid mass murder events (RMM).

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