



APCO International

ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC-SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS OFFICIALS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

February 22, 2002

Re: Project 39 – Interference to 800 MHz Public Safety
Status and Funding Requirement

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
John K. Ramsey
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Letter from RoxAnn Brown, P39 Chairperson

As the Chair of Project 39, I must applaud the efforts of our dedicated Technical Group headed by Kevin Kearns of King County, Washington. This group has met every other Friday via conference call to look at identified issues and the fixes required. They have evaluated equipment and come to some conclusions that will be presented in a report at the mid year meeting proposed for Phoenix in March. They have worked with the technical people from some of the utilities and manufacturers and we appreciate all of the work they have done together so far.

But I am unable at this time to give them the tools they need to further define locations and problems on a web based, comprehensive interference file server because there is not the money to do so. In April of 2001, APCO committed to Project 39. There was neither a funding source nor budget, but we believed if we started the process the funding would come in the form of donations and grants. We have now expended \$50,000.00 and only one small donation has been received. We all know that if this very dangerous situation is ever going to be remedied, the opportunity is now with the public safety coalition led by APCO.

Project 39 has formed a powerful coalition with the International Fire Chiefs Association (IAFC) and the International Chiefs of Police (IACP). Together with APCO, this group has participated in the follow up FCC Wireless Bureau's meetings. Project 39 is recognized by the FCC as the central point of contact to deal with all 800MHz public safety interference issues. After our last conference call following Thanksgiving, it was Project 39 who turned in an 82 page status report to assist the FCC in understanding the true extent and nature of the problem. The FCC had been attempting to determine the magnitude of the issues. Our report was clear that 28 states had reported some type of interference, and that the interference was from not only Nextel, but cellular A and B as well.

The next steps are clearly laid out in the Project 39 plan, but without funding to bring together the individuals for occasional (every 6 months) work sessions; to be able to improve the data collection and collation of that data; without the funding for measuring equipment or some way to assist our public

safety organizations who do not have their own technical support then further assessment of not only the problems but also the solutions, will be difficult to accomplish. All of the participants, including commercial equipment providers, Nextel, Cellular A and Cellular B must work together to eliminate the potential danger to public safety providers. While it has not been determined that human life has actually been lost due to interference, it is only a matter of time. And with the continued growth of cellular and the growth in public safety needs, the potential for life-threatening consequences exponentially increase.

Won't you consider sending a tax deductible donation to APCO's Project 39? As I travel around the country speaking on behalf of this project and what we have found so far, it is clear everyone believes the only way this situation is going to be fixed is for this project to move forward. And the only way this project can move forward is if you as an individual or corporation consider it worthy enough to open your wallet for its success.

September 11th inflicted a new reality on all of us in North America; let us not lose the sense of urgency we all feel today. Remember, how we handle the daunting challenge facing us today in Project 39, will undoubtedly set the tone for how we are perceived in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RB', written in a cursive style.

RB