



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION
FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY
COMBINED BOARD AND COMMITTEES MEETING TRANSCRIPT
August 17, 2022

Stephen Benjamin:

Good morning. Today we're convening for the First Responder Network Authority Combined Board and Committee Meetings. We're holding a meeting in Los Angeles, California, with a majority of Board members attending in person and a few participating virtually. I want to thank everyone for joining us today. And I'm Steve Benjamin, the Chair of the Board of the Authority.

Now before we start the agenda for the day would like to welcome Robert Brown. He is a new DOJ designee to the Board and serves as Executive Assistant Director for the FBI's Science and Technology Branch. He will serve on the Board's Programs and Future Planning Committee. Robert adds to the long list of amazing South Carolinians who joined this Board as of late. But so happy to have you, Robert. You want to make any brief comments?

Robert Brown:

Yes, sir. Thank you, Chairman Benjamin, for the warm welcome. I'm sorry I can't be there in person to join you, and I certainly look forward to our next meeting where I will be there in person. I have dedicated most of my life to public service. Before joining the FBI as a Special Agent, I served for nine years as a patrol officer in Greenville, South Carolina. Of course, in my former role over the Operational Technology Division, I became well versed in the role of FirstNet. So, I look forward to supporting the Board and serving under your leadership, sir.

Stephen Benjamin:

Thank you so much. We're glad to have you on the FirstNet Board and look forward to working with you. I'd also like to thank obviously our former DOJ designee Darrin Jones for all of his work and support on FirstNet during his time on the Board. We congratulate him on his new role at DOJ and wish Darrin the very best.

It's great to be here in L.A. And yesterday, the Board had an opportunity to conduct a site visit at SoFi Stadium, which hosted the 2022 Super Bowl. As one of the largest sports events of the year, anywhere, quite frankly, there's no surprise that public safety and security is a top focus and preplanning takes place more than a year in advance. For the 2022 game, the FirstNet Authority and AT&T worked closely with L.A.'s public safety agencies during this advanced planning beginning in early 2021, as well as the day of in the joint operation center. In the days leading up to the game, the FirstNet Authority working in the JOC, assisted with upfit of over 300 phone numbers onto the FirstNet network. While in the JOC, respondents had direct access to FirstNet

Authority public safety experts to help remedy communications issues upfit -- uplift FirstNet users and identify FirstNet solutions that could solve problems at hand. AT&T FirstNet operated inside the Inglewood JOC, and the L.A. Unified Command support responders surrounding the -- serving the surrounding areas. The teams provide a variety of services, including switching out SIM cards, connecting LTE mobile hotspot routers, and setting up FirstNet accounts.

Yesterday, we heard from some of these public safety agencies and saw firsthand the various factors they considered when planning security for the Super Bowl, including, and maybe most critical for successful event, emergency communications. We learned how these agencies integrated FirstNet into emergency operations for the game and how the network helped, and lessons learned from the event. Today, we're pleased to have commander Randy Goddard of the LAPD joining us to share more about their public safety efforts for the Super Bowl. Thank you for being here, Commander, and we look forward to hearing from you shortly.

But first, let's start -- let's turn to the business of today's quarterly Board meeting. Today, we look ahead to the new fiscal year starting on October 1. As is customary with the August Board meeting, we'll consider the FirstNet Authority's fiscal year 2023 budget, including funding for the organization's operations and allocating resources for potential network investments. We'll also be highlighting our priorities for the coming year and taking stock of our accomplishments for the past year, which included an investment to improve indoor location for FirstNet. This is my first time going through the budget process as a Chair, and I've been incredibly impressed with the processes and rigor that are in place to ensure that the organization continues to stay on task, on cost, and on time to achieve the many key milestones this year.

I really want to thank the leadership team at the FirstNet Authority for the execution of the fiscal year '22 and also the planning for fiscal year '23. We've developed the budget that's focused and that is strategic. This budget funds exactly what we need in terms of operations, and that's important because every dollar we save on operations we can use for investments back into the network to improve services, coverage, and capabilities for network users. Public safety will continue to be the center of everything we do in the coming year. This includes a robust stakeholder engagement strategy. And we need to budget for future investments in the network based on what public safety tells us is most important. Of course, we're also allocating resources to our people in our organization, the FirstNet Authority, and I'm looking forward to our discussions on the budget a little bit later.

So, today, we're going to get a public safety testimonial from public -- local public safety stakeholders about the experience at FirstNet and, specifically, how the network played a role in the Super Bowl that took place here in Los Angeles earlier this year, receive a review of fiscal year 2022 and the information about fiscal year 2023 priorities from Acting CEO Lisa Casias, receive a Finance and Investment Committee Update, vote on one Committee Resolution and one Board Resolution related to the 20 -- fiscal year '23 budget. We're going to receive a PSAC, a Public Safety Advisory Committee update from our Chair, Christopher Lombard, and we're also going to get Advocacy and Program and Future Planning Committee updates. I'd like to ask our Board Secretary to call the roll for the Board and confirm that each committee has a quorum. Madam Secretary, would you please call the roll and then read the conflicts of interest statement?

Janell Smith:

All right. I'll mark you as present, Chair Benjamin. Richard Carrizzo?

Richard Carrizzo:

Present.

Janell Smith:

Robert Brown -- Billy Bob Brown Jr.?

Billy Bob Brown:

Present.

Janell Smith:

Robert Brown?

Robert Brown:

Present.

Janell Smith:

Brian Crawford?

Brian Crawford:

Present.

Janell Smith:

Alexandra Fernández Navarro?

Alexandra Fernández Navarro:

Present.

Janell Smith:

Kristin Graziano?

Kristin Graziano:

Present.

Janell Smith:

Billy Hewes?

Billy Hewes:

Present.

Janell Smith:

Karima Holmes?

Karima Holmes:

Present.

Janell Smith:
Peter Koutoujian?

Peter Koutoujian:
Present.

Janell Smith:
Warren Mickens?

Warren Mickens:
Present.

Janell Smith:
Sylvia Moir?

Sylvia Moir:
Present.

Janell Smith:
Jocelyn Moore?

Jocelyn Moore:
Present.

Janell Smith:
Paul Patrick?

Paul Patrick:
Present.

Janell Smith:
Tia Patterson?

Tia Patterson:
Present.

Janell Smith:
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 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.

Stephen Benjamin:

Thank you, Madam Secretary, for always keeping us on task. Each member of the Board has before him or her the minutes of our May meeting. Are there any additions or corrections to those minutes at this time? Seeing none, I'll take a motion to accept these minutes.

Karima Holmes:

Chair, this is Karima. I approve or accept the motion to accept the meeting minutes for May.

Stephen Benjamin:

Thank you. Is there a second?

Alexandra Fernández Navarro:

This is Board member Fernández Navarro. I second the motion to approve the minutes.

Stephen Benjamin:

Thank you. All in favor, say aye.

Multiple Speakers:

Aye.

Stephen Benjamin:

Opposed indicate by saying nay. Are there any abstentions? These May meeting minutes are accepted. Madam Secretary, please make the minutes available to the public following this meeting. We're going to start the public safety with the Public Safety Testimonials. I'm going to turn this over to Board Vice Chair Richard Carrizzo and also the Advocacy Chair to introduce our guest.

Richard Carrizzo:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It gives me great pleasure that I get to introduce this morning our public safety official that's here today to give us a little highlight of the FirstNet and what they're doing with it in L.A. So, I'll let him introduce himself a little bit further, but it does give me great honor to have Commander Randall -- excuse me, Randy, I apologize -- Goddard of the Los Angeles Police Department. This morning, he will be speaking to us on their department's FirstNet experience and recent implementation into FirstNet with all their officers. At this point, I'll give the floor over to Commander Goddard and thank you for being here again.

Randy Goddard:

Good morning Vice Chair, Mr. Chair, and fellow Board members. As stated, my name is Randy Goddard. I'm a commander with the Los Angeles Police Department. I have about 27 years of experience. My current assignment is the Assistant Commanding Officer for Information Technology Bureau, which is a bureau that essentially runs all of the technology, including the cellular devices, for the LAPD.

I would like to start by, hey, welcoming you to the City of Angels. And hopefully, you've

enjoyed your stay here. I know it's a short one. And I wish you safe travels on your flights back home. I want to lay the foundation before getting to the Super Bowl of what LAPD's vision is for the future and how we connect cops with technology, and why FirstNet is important to LAPD.

Technology really is something that we do to leverage the human resources that we have within our agencies throughout the United States. And right now, human resources are of great value. And, they are hard to come by in public safety right now. So, how can we take that technology to leverage that human resource so those officers can spend more time out in the communities, engaging the communities with community-oriented policing and engaging them to win public trust? And where we are centric around is our smartphone devices. We're really looking at a future where the smartphone devices are issued to every officer. And we're currently doing that in the academy with their gun and their badge and their ID. And they're going to carry these devices throughout the rest of their career. And in lieu of them coming back to the stations to do all of the administrative paperwork, which we in the LAPD have found that can be anywhere from 40-60 percent of their day, we want to keep them out in the field. And the only way to do that is to have some connectivity to all the things they need to be able to run arrestees, to be able to write reports, and to do all these things. And all is centered around this smartphone device.

But the smartphone device, as powerful as it is, it's only as good as the connection it has with the network. So, when we are looking towards the future of this is the way the LAPD wants to move to the future. We're looking for a partner that could give us that connectivity. To give us the redundancy in case of crisis being the city, the second largest city in the United States. We have 4 million Angelenos that we are committed to protect. And in California, we have everything from brushfires to earthquakes to public unrest. And during all of these incidents, we've all learned throughout the decades, going back to 9/11, how critical it is to be able to communicate with all the public safety entities and our partners. And FirstNet has given us that ability. We have 1,700 mobile digital computers installed in our fleet, all run by FirstNet. And we have everything from coastal to mountains within in the city. And we have a rate of 90 percent plus that we always get that connected activity. We never have to fall back to the second step.

Moving on to the smartphone devices, we're becoming much more reliant on the smartphone devices for communication, day-to-day communication. For example, in the Super Bowl with the command staff, we would use the land base radios much less where we would rely more on our text messaging and our cellular communications. So, that's becoming more and more of a transition, and public safety now is we're relying more on the cellular devices than our radios. And, of course, we'll always have the radios we'll always use radios as needed. But the cellular devices are centric to what we're doing. We recently deployed 7,000 iPhone 13 Max Pros to officers in the field. And again, they're starting to use these as their entry point to everything they're doing-- that's their office. And we would like to see a time, and we're moving towards that, that we would take those mobile digital computers outside of the vehicles. And the only thing they would have would be this device with them. And they would plug it into their vehicle, use CarPlay, use these various things, to create that vehicle into essentially everything they need using their smartphone device. So, that's the future we're working with vendors to do that. But again, we would not be able to do that if we didn't have reliable connectivity with the speeds that we need to get the job done. And we have that and we're very satisfied.

Moving on to the Super Bowl. You know, a huge event, like Mr. Chair had said, a huge event and leading up to the Super Bowl in the City of Los Angeles. We had the NFL Experience, which was two weeks, Game Day was one day, but in Los Angeles, we had two weeks of event leading up to the game. And we had hundreds of thousands of people visit the L.A. Live downtown area to experience the NFL Experience. We had a huge deployment of resources in the thousands of officers deployed for this experience. And again, every officer that was out there was deployed with a smartphone device. We're able to see where officers are through some of our applications that we have using the connectivity to see where they are to be able to track our resources if needed, and AT&T's partnership with us, because we did get kind of behind the game and the planning process came up on us really quick. And I was amazed at the ability for AT&T to move and get things done in a very short amount of time. For example, we chose to have our unified command post at our Elysian Park Academy, which is not built for a command post. But based upon where the venue was at L.A. Live, it was far enough away, where we weren't interfering with the actual incident, but close enough away where we could have resources standing by at Dodger Stadium to respond if necessary. But the infrastructure at the Academy did not support what we needed for command posts. We didn't have any cellular connectivity at the time. We lacked the internet speeds that we needed. So, ultimately, working with AT&T and our partners, we were able to get a one gig fiber optic line into the Academy. They installed all new infrastructure within the classrooms and everywhere we were to be able to support the cellular connectivity and the download speeds that we needed to run that command post with us and all of our partners, federal partners, and county partners.

They also were able to deploy eight assets for this specific event. Obviously, we saw the wonderful speeds at the SoFi Stadium last night. It was very impressive. The almost 400 megabits per second download speeds using my cellphone really blew me out of the water. But that was something that AT&T was able to facilitate. At our police academy, we deployed a satellite COLT, a Hot Standby. We also had additional COLT at Dodger Stadium, which was our staging area for backup. This was in case something did happen at the venue at L.A. Live or anywhere in the City of Los Angeles. If we lost communications, that we were able to deploy these devices, these COLTs rapidly and get communications up and running again. So, we wanted that redundancy. We wanted those backups. They also deployed a FirstNet emergency vehicle at the police academy and then ultimately moved it to Morningside High School on game day. At the actual venue at L.A. Live, they were deployed two satellite trailers, one at the top level of the convention center parking lot. And then also one working with the businesses in the area, there was a hotel that had a very good vantage point that they were able to negotiate with that hotel to get another satellite trailer deployed at the hotel. All of these were backup redundancies because the infrastructure in the downtown area for FirstNet is amazing. We have plenty of connectivity on a day-to-day basis. But in this particular circumstance, when we have that many people, and this was a worldwide event, we wanted to make sure that if something were to happen, we had layers of backups to keep us connected.

So, that's a quick overview of some of the things that we did to prepare for the Super Bowl. And the reasonings why we have FirstNet with AT&T. And just our thanks from LAPD for the FirstNet Authority of being that oversight Board to be able to keep public safety connected. It is incredibly important. I think the FirstNet Authority role is important. And the relationship that we have with the Authority and with our partners at AT&T is phenomenal. And we look

forward to nothing but great things in the future.

Richard Carrizzo:

Great. I think we have a few questions from some of our Board members, or I'll open it up.

Paul Patrick:

Thanks, Chief Carrizzo. Commander Goddard, thank you so much for being here and for sharing with us yesterday as well. Could you just describe for me briefly what your overall experience has been with FirstNet?

Randy Goddard:

So, just to put in context, you know, I've been in operations, you know, 26 years of my 27 years, been in the IT world for a year, and it is very challenging. I will take operations any day over IT, and I deal with a lot of vendors in my role. And I have found that a lot of vendors aren't very responsive to our needs as a customer. Being a public safety agency and not a private entity, there's sometimes we don't have a lot of things that we can do. But I will tell you with the answer to your question sir, with AT&T and FirstNet, it has been my best relationship with any vendor, because any need that we have, whether it be a simple need at my office, where my office is placed in the building, I needed a booster, booster was installed the next day. Whether it's our Chief of Staff for the Los Angeles Police Department in his home, he needs a little bit more connectivity. The booster was installed at his home. Whether it's the connectivity at our 21 geographic areas, whatever this problem that comes up, we can reach out to our partners, we have AT&T folks on-site, Monday through Friday. They are almost in my role as a part of the LAPD team. We couldn't do without them. And every day is a pleasant experience from the top executives within the AT&T FirstNet command structure or even the sales guy that's coming out to help out with the deployment of the 7,000 phones. So, it's been a really, really, pleasant experience. They've done everything they can do to make us happy and make sure that we have that connectivity.

Kristin Graziano:

Commander Goddard, thank you for being here. And thank you for your service, sir, to the City of Angels and to the country. And thank you yesterday for sharing this enormous task and complexity of planning this large-scale event. We really appreciate that. It was eye-opening. Can you share some of the complexities and the challenges that your team faced in the broadband, bringing broadband communications planning, for that event?

Randy Goddard:

I had mentioned that before. It's kind of unusual to have a command post where there is no communications. That doesn't work out very well. So, that was definitely a challenge. And we didn't have a lot of time to correct that challenge. Because they were set being the incident commander and the command structure. They were set on having it at that location. So, now it was IT's, and AT&T FirstNet's problem to how do we get communications and broadband into that location in a two-week period. So, that's where the compliments to AT&T go is we were able to accomplish that. So, that was a challenge. We were able to accomplish that and exceed our expectations for the amount of connectivity that we do. I was hoping to get something where we could at least have some type of dial up, something that we can connect. But again, the

speeds that we're seeing up there now with that new infrastructure is quite amazing and allowed us to run, you know, 150 people in this command post, and everybody was able with their computers and their smartphones and everything, to not drop a call, to get the emails and get the communication out they needed. So, that was a challenge. But we were able to overcome that through that partnership.

Sylvia Moir:

Commander Goddard, you are uniquely positioned to give us insight as you reflect on this experience that you had. Is there a key takeaway from this event that will aid in the planning of the next large-scale event that you can provide for all of us?

Randy Goddard:

I think the Planning P of the NIM [spelled phonetically] system is incredibly important. I think the earlier that you get into that planning, the more successful you're going to be. And we heard it yesterday from Mr. Harder that Inglewood experienced something similar to us where they were deploying phones very close to the actual event. And we actually were deploying phones in the middle of the event; it took a break before it. So, I would say learning from this is, earlier we can get the planning, going, and working with our partners, all of our partners, and all getting on the same page, and making sure that the tasks are getting done in the time that we need is definitely a lesson learned. So that we can have all that infrastructure and not have to worry about the technology side of things when we're really trying to make sure we're planning it for a huge event. We got the Olympics coming up. We get a lot of big things coming up in Los Angeles. So, these lessons learned we'll be able to take and how all the things that we need as far as technology in the cellular broadband in place before we get to those events.

Sylvia Moir:

Thank you very much. And thank you for your service.

Richard Carrizzo:

Commander, I truly appreciate you being here this morning. And I know, on behalf of the whole Board, we do appreciate everything you did yesterday on our tour. It was phenomenal. And we hope that the Authority in the Los Angeles Fire Department -- I'm so used to the fire department. I apologize. Police Department and our partnership continue long, and we can help whatever we can. So, thank you for being here again.

Randy Goddard:

No problem. Thank you. My pleasure.

Stephen Benjamin:

That was intentional, Commander.

Randy Goddard:

We do need firefighters. They're important, too.

[laughter]

Richard Carrizzo:

All right, we won't even go there.

[laughter]

Stephen Benjamin:

Thanks again, Rich and Commander Goddard. Thank you for the incredible hospitality and opportunity to learn here. We as the Board always appreciate when we hear directly from public safety and engage with you about the great work that you do every single day and the way that the FirstNet network supports you. We're now going to get a review of the fiscal year 2022 accomplishments and an explanation of what the priorities for next year will be from our Acting CEO, Lisa Casias.

Lisa Casias:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Fiscal Year '22 was another year of significant progress for the network, for public safety and, of course, for our organization, the FirstNet Authority. It is worth highlighting that this year marked the 10th anniversary of the FirstNet Authority's creation. The FirstNet Authority team is pleased where we are in this phase of the project and how far we have come. There are now 3.7 million connections on the network, and more than 95 percent of public safety's Band 14 spectrum has been deployed nationwide, and nearly 22,000 agencies are using FirstNet for daily operations and responding to emergencies. But we recognize that we are not done yet. FirstNet must continue to evolve and grow based on the needs of public safety. And that is why this meeting is so critical to the future of the network and the FirstNet Authority.

I also want to highlight our organization's ability to adapt and remain focused on execution this past year. We spent about half of the year fully remote and started returning to the office this past April. We also resumed a more robust engagement program with public safety in the field face-to-face. We were innovative in our virtual engagements over the past two years. But nothing can replace the collaborative impact from having in-person work and face-to-face meetings. And we did engage that yesterday and having our tour of the SoFi Stadium, that really was much more critical to do something like that face-to-face and learn more about how FirstNet was implemented and any improvements that we need to look at and make. I want to thank public safety for continuing to participate and engage with us through webinars, virtual meetings, and other avenues during this pandemic. It has enabled us to keep the momentum and ensure their voice in the network. I would also like to thank the Board for your ongoing support and in providing the resources we needed to be successful in these areas and evolving the network enhancing FirstNet continues to be a top priority for the FirstNet Authority. And we did so this year by directing investments to improve indoor coverage on the network. This is a top need for public safety, and we are pleased to be addressing that need through our most recent investment. And working with public safety, it was another year of growth for the network, both in terms of adoption and the delivery of new services to public safety. As I noted, FirstNet's Band 14 spectrum is now more than 95 percent built out, and connections and agencies using FirstNet have grown significantly over the past year. We also saw the introduction of a new mission-critical Push-to-Talk solution that is bringing greater situational awareness to FirstNet users and then driving the future. As I mentioned earlier, we wouldn't be here today without the ongoing coordination, support, and feedback from our public safety stakeholders. Despite being virtual

for a portion of the year, the team managed to hold more than 1,500 engagements with stakeholders. And this has helped us guide improvements to the network and understand their operational needs during events like wildfires and other disasters. I'd also like to take this moment to thank our staff for being resilient during the past two years, being creative, and being really dedicated to the FirstNet mission. We've really accomplished a lot and that is due to the dedication of all of our staff members.

I just want to cover our FY '23 priorities and spend a little time to discuss what's up for us in the next fiscal year and the priority areas we're focusing on. Our mission is to oversee the deployment of the nationwide public safety broadband network, and we are currently in year 5 of the initial 5-year build-out of Band 14. Our focus will be on the work needed in this year ahead while also preparing to move from an initial build-out to future enhancements of the network. Because FirstNet must and will continue to advance for public safety. In the next fiscal year, we will further strengthen our stakeholder engagement programs through our market engagement team with a targeted campaign-based approach for each public safety discipline. This effort will help us further understand the emergency communications needs of our end users and FirstNet network and support public safety's FirstNet experience for the biggest and most effective impact to their operations. We also remain laser-focused on directing planning and investment dollars to advance the network based on our Roadmap, what public safety tells us is most needed for FirstNet and understanding top industry trends for evolving mission-critical broadband technologies. Regarding our organizational health, one of our top FY '23 priorities is to ensure the renewal of the Federal Communications Commission license. We look forward to moving out on these priorities in the months ahead and working together with the Board and public safety to accomplish our goals and ensure FirstNet's continued success.

That concludes the review of last year fiscal year's accomplishments and the upcoming fiscal year priorities. And I'll turn this back over to you, Chair Benjamin.

Stephen Benjamin:

Thank you, Lisa. I'm really thankful to the FirstNet team for all that we have to accomplish last fiscal year and looking forward to keeping the same momentum going into the upcoming fiscal year. We're now going to get an update from the Finance and Investment Committee and vote on a resolution supporting the fiscal year 2023 budget. I'll give the floor to the great Chairman Brian Crawford, Chair of the Finance and Investment Committee.

Brian Crawford:

Thank you, Chairman Benjamin. I want to, first of all, thank the members of the Finance Committee for their diligent work during the current fiscal year monitoring and reviewing the FirstNet Authority's financial execution and its planning and budget development for fiscal year 2023. The FirstNet Authority is more than three-quarters of the way through fiscal year 2022, and Kim and her finance team have provided the financial details necessary to track current operations. The Authority is on very sound financial footing and is financially well positioned as we approach the next fiscal year. The Authority's financial execution during the current fiscal year has been well within the boundaries of the FY 2022 budget approved by this Board. This focus on spending only what's needed to achieve mission goals is forecast to produce an underburn balance at fiscal year-end, which will then be available for future year investments

benefiting public safety. Another positive outcome will be that the Authority will end fiscal year 2022 with cumulative administrative expenses below the cap mandated by the Authority's established legislation. And in fiscal year 2023 budget provides the operational necessities for confirming contractual deliverables from AT&T as the national public safety broadband reaches final operating capacity in the next fiscal year and for the balance of the necessary mission support operations, public safety entities engagement, and reinvestment program activities necessary to achieve the Authority's goals and objectives. And now, I would like Kim Farington, our Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, to provide a brief fiscal year 2022 financial update and additional details about the fiscal year '23 budget. Kim?

Kim Farington:

Thank you, Brian. Good day, everyone. On this slide, you'll see the illustration of our cumulative obligations of \$54.1 million through the end of June. The blue line represents our cumulative available budget, and the space between the top of the bar and the blue line indicates our actuals are under budget through nine months of this fiscal year. The green line at the top indicates our total budget for fiscal year '22.

Now, I'll turn to fiscal year '23. Our forecasted fiscal year '23 total financial resources of \$357.7 million are represented in the top gold bar, and the three buckets of our fiscal year '23 budget allocations are below that. In that, we have the operations budget request of \$83.9 million. And on the right side, you can see we request a reserve allocation equal to that one year's annual operations budget of \$83.9 million. In the middle blue box is our national public safety broadband network investments bucket with the remaining \$189.9 million allocation. So, those are our funds available and how we plan to or propose to allocate those funds into our buckets.

So, with that, if no questions, I will turn it back over to you, Brian, for the Finance Committee resolution.

Brian Crawford:

Great. Thank you, Kim. I appreciate it. To move forward with the fiscal year 2023 budget allocations, this Committee would like to make a recommendation to the Board as a whole. Through this resolution, the Finance and Investment Committee recommends that the Board 1) authorize management to allocate funding for fiscal year 2023 into three funding categories and 2) authorize the management to enter into the necessary agreements to meet fiscal year '23 strategic objectives, and finally, approve the proposed budget on an obligations basis.

Before we vote, do any Finance and Investment Committee members have any questions about the proposed resolution? Hearing none, we're prepared to vote on Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 32. Madam Secretary, would you please read the operative language?

Janell Smith:

Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 32 Recommendation on Fiscal Year 2023 budget. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Finance and Investment Committee hereby recommends that the FirstNet Authority Board approve senior leadership's fiscal year 2023 budget of \$357,654,199 For the three major funding categories of FirstNet Authority Operations, Operational Contingency Reserve and Reinvestment in Network Enhancement Fund.

Be it further resolved that the Finance and Investment Committee recommends that the Board approves senior leadership's fiscal year 2023 FirstNet Authority Operations Budget of \$83,209,790 [sic] on an obligations basis plus, with advance notice to the Board, up to a 10 percent management reallocation allowance from the reserve allocation in the event of unplanned and extraordinary circumstances. Operational Contingency Reserve allocation of \$83,902,790, an amount equal to the Operations Budget for fiscal year 2023, and Reinvestment in Network Enhancement Fund allocation of \$189,848,619. Should the FirstNet Authority receive any additional sources of income in fiscal year 2023, including fiscal year 2022 reconciliations, they will be added to the Reinvestment in Network Enhancement Fund funding category.

Brian Crawford:

Thank you, Mrs. Smith. May I have a motion to approve Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 32?

Karima Holmes:

Chair, a motion to approve Finance and Investment Committee Resolution 32.

Brian Crawford:

Motion made by Finance and Investment Committee member Karima Holmes. I need a second, please.

Billy Hewes:

Mr. Chair, this is Billy Hewes. I second that motion.

Brian Crawford:

Thank you, Mayor Hewes. For Finance Committee members, all those in favor of this resolution say aye.

Multiple Speakers:

Aye.

Brian Crawford:

Any opposed, say nay. Are there any abstentions? Mr. Chairman, this resolution is adopted. Madam Secretary, will you please make this resolution available to the public following this meeting?

Janell Smith:

Yes, I will.

Brian Crawford:

And that concludes the Committee's business for today. I'll hand the floor back over to you, Chairman Benjamin.

Stephen Benjamin:

Thank you, Brian, to the Committee. To move forward with fiscal year 2023, the Board is now prepared to vote on Resolution 114. Before we vote, do any Board members have any questions

about the proposed resolutions? Hearing none, we're prepared to vote on Resolution 114. Madam Secretary, would you please read the operative language?

Janell Smith:

Board Resolution 114 Fiscal Year 2023 Budget. Now therefore be it resolved that the Board hereby approves a Fiscal Year 2023 budget of \$357,654,199 for the three major funding categories of FirstNet Authority Operations, Operational Contingency Reserve, and Reinvestment in Network Enhancement Fund. Be it therefore resolved that the Board approves allocation of the fiscal year 2023 budget as follows: FirstNet Authority Operations Budget of \$83,902,790 on an obligations basis. Plus, with advance notice to the Board, up to a 10 percent management reallocation allowance from the reserve allocation in the event of unplanned and extraordinary circumstances, Operational Contingency Reserve Allocation of \$83,902,790, an amount equal to the Operations Budget for fiscal year 2023, and Reinvestment in Network Enhancement Fund allocation of \$189,848,619 on an obligations basis. Should the FirstNet Authority receive any additional sources of income in fiscal year 2023, including fiscal year 2022 reconciliations, they will be added to the Reinvestment in Network Enhancement Fund funding category.

Stephen Benjamin:

Thank you. May I have a motion to approve Board Resolution 114?

Jocelyn Moore:

Mr. Chairman, so moved.

Stephen Benjamin:

Is there a second?

Sylvia Moir:

Yes, Mr. Chairman, this is Sylvia Moir. I second.

Stephen Benjamin:

All right, moved by Jocelyn Moore, seconded by Sylvia Moir. All in favor, say aye.

Multiple Speakers:

Aye.

Stephen Benjamin:

All opposed, indicate by saying nay. Are there any abstentions? All right, the resolution is adopted. Madam Secretary, please make the resolution available to the public following this meeting.

Janell Smith:

Yes, I will.

Stephen Benjamin:

Thank you so much. Thank you. Now we'll get an update on the Public Safety Advisory

Committee from the PSAC Chair, Chris Lombard. Chief?

Christopher Lombard:

Good morning, Mr. Chair. Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak to you. I'm so sorry that I can't be with you there today. I was down supporting some of our PSAC members. I was at the APCO conference down there last week, and next week I'll be in San Antonio with the International Association of Fire Chiefs. If I had been with you this week, you would have had to address Mrs. Lombard.

[laughter]

So, again, it's great to see everybody, and thank you to the FirstNet Authority and Board members for having me virtually today. Like I said, it was my pleasure to see many of you at APCO last week. The FirstNet track was well attended, and I enjoyed being on several panels.

I have just a quick -- few quick updates on the PSAC for the Board today. Since our last Board meeting, the PSAC held a virtual business meeting in May, with many of the EC members together in Boulder. We appreciated AT&T leadership taking the time to run through the new network updates and discuss some of their ROG deployments, which continue out here in the West. The MEO leadership time also entered introduced us to the discipline campaigns, a new way to engage public safety around the FirstNet network and their broadband communications needs. Then, last month, the PSAC gathered again to hear more in-depth plans on these campaigns and how the PSAC members themselves will be involved. Working with the senior public safety advisors and team. We're excited to be so connected to the outreach and education work on the FirstNet Authority and really look forward to more targeted and in-depth interactions in the coming months.

The last update here is that we have two new PSAC members as of late. Dr. Hezedeane Smith of Charlottesville Fire is representing the National EMS Management Association, and Darrin Jones, the new DOJ-FBI rep and a name very familiar to all of us. We're glad that we were able to retain him and the work that he's been doing. We're glad to have both new members on board and appreciate again Darrin's willingness to continue to be so involved in the FirstNet -- [clears throat] excuse me -- the FirstNet Authority work.

Some future PSAC work, there are a few upcoming PSAC engagements I'd like to highlight as well. Our Tribal Working Group had to reschedule their summer meeting to this fall due to the delegate's emergency management and response work in June. We're looking forward to seeing them at the Boulder lab in the week of November 7 later this year. Our Users Working Group will be conducting a listening session in Reston in mid-September to provide feedback on network use and discuss some of the engagement types and the development with FirstNet MEO staff and leadership.

And lastly, we're planning our first in-person full PSAC meeting in quite a while in conjunction with the next Board meeting in November in Washington, D.C. I'm really looking forward to being there with all of you in just a few months.

In closing, again, sorry I couldn't be there. Vice Chair Carrizzo, we could have formed our fire caucus [laughs]. But in light of that, if there are no questions, I conclude my update, and I'll turn the floor back over to you, Chair Benjamin.

Stephen Benjamin:

Sure. Any questions for Chris? All right. Thank you so much, Chief. We're now going to get an update from the Advocacy Committee. I'm going to turn it over the Vice Chair Carrizzo, who also chairs the Advocacy Committee.

Richard Carrizzo:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you, Chris, for our deploy of the fire service moving forward. So, we'll move forward, though, but it is wonderful to have and use these Board meetings to hear from our public safety directly how FirstNet is evolving in their operations and so glad it was the police department that was here today, and hopefully the fire department in the future. We'll worry about that later.

To reiterate what Commander Goddard has shared with us earlier, and that so proudly announced with AT&T earlier this month that the Los Angeles Police Department recently expanded the use of FirstNet. It issued updated 7,000 - which kind of surprised me that it was that many units but that is wonderful news - FirstNet enabled devices to each officer, outfitted patrol vehicles with routers to provide network connectivity to its officers in the field, and equipped officers with intrepid networks response for FirstNet platform. I was very impressed that they're making that commitment to all new officers that come on board the LAPD and that this will be their future into America. Hopefully, other agencies will follow pursuit. Again, I want to thank Commander Goddard for being here with us this morning. I really enjoyed hearing the discussions around his deployables.

Now shifting towards some more recent collaborations with our public safety stakeholders. In June, the FirstNet Authority was a key contributor to the Public Safety Communications Research, also known as PSCR's annual stakeholder meeting, which has been served directly from the FirstNet Authority leaders. I was truly humbled and honored to provide the keynote address. We also served on multiple panels and join breakout sessions throughout the entire week listening to other agencies and what they're going through. It was an incredible venue that brought so many public safety, federal agencies, industries, and academia together to give direct input, guidance, and feedback to PSCR as well as its grantees and Prize Challenge participants that were there that week.

Also, in June, our own Paul Patrick attended the National Association of State EMS Officials Annual Meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. He had several opportunities to provide an overview of the FirstNet Authority and network elevation, including he attended the Founder's lunch and Highway Incident Transportation Subcommittee meeting. We're also pleased to have Acting CEO Lisa Casias and Senior Director of Roadmap Brian Hobson attend and represent the FirstNet Authority at the Critical Communications World in Vienna in June. This event was hosted by the TCCA. And it's an opportunity to continue sharing our lessons learned on developing public safety broadband with other nations that are either pursuing broadband networks for their first responders or considering a deployment. I know even at PSCR, we heard

from three countries that were there and made presentations on everything that FirstNet is doing for them and what they're trying to implement in their own countries. I know that's been going on for a little over five or six years, so it is just kudos to what we continue to do, not only in our country.

Sheriff Koutoujian participated in the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, also known as NOBLE, at their annual conference and briefed their executive team, excuse me, on the FirstNet updates. Looking forward to the fall coming up over the next quarter, we have Brian Crawford will be attending the International Association of Fire Chiefs in San Antonio next week, and he'll be briefing the Board of Directors on the FirstNet's going ons. So, appreciate you doing that for us, Brian. Along with many members of the team that will also be there will also be participating in the Vision 22 FirstNet Users Summit in mid-September, while Patrick will also be participating in the EMS world in October in Orlando. So, thank you, Paul.

Finally, I wanted to share a few specific examples of how the organization has been successful in collaborating with public safety over the last quarter and some of our greatest impacts that we've seen, not only what we heard today. I spoke earlier this year on how the Market Engagement Team stood up an effort to better understand the evolving public safety mission requirements for reliable coverage for first responders operating in both aerial and maritime environments. Through primary virtual interviews with targeted public safety stakeholders across the country, the team has been able to gather specific broadband use cases, understand implementation challenges they are facing, and capture regulatory issues and concerns specific to the aerial and maritime operations.

The team has held a successful in-person engagement with San Diego Fire Department on June 22. They learned about their aviation assets and how they help with firefighting, rescue, search, command and control, among other operations that they do. The advocates -- excuse me -- the Advocacy Committee was given a briefing last month from the Divisional Chief of their aviation program. Chief Macfarland highlighted the importance of the near real-time versus relayed or delayed data and video when relating his operational needs, and more importantly, how they connect data they're getting on these operations and how they send that back to the incident command post to make decisions. He's also relayed the importance of providing some situational awareness for intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and search and rescue missions. The team is applying with these lessons that are learned with other agencies and how we can implement better services to them.

Last week, Lisa, Sheriff Graziano, Chief Moir, Karima Holmes, and three other PSAC members, as the Chief explained, attended the FirstNet -- along with FirstNet Authority staff, attended the APCO 2022. This is their annual conference, and it was held in Anaheim just down the road. As in previous years, APCO gave the FirstNet Authority the opportunity to craft and host an entire education track titled "FirstNet: Transforming the Future of Emergency Communications." This track included 12 sessions, plus a theater presentation on the exhibit hall floor. The panels covered many topics related to the Emergency Communication Center community, including tracking location of first responders in the field, drones expanding situational awareness in the ECC, wildland fire, event planning, devices, effective incorporation of mission-critical services, challenges with data silos, and tech and non-technical solutions to the ECC challenges that they

face every day. Each panel included a combination of public safety stakeholders and/or AT&T FirstNet representatives, who helped make the topics accessible, equitable, and relevant to the ECC community. We're very fortunate that APCO always provides an important opportunity to engage with the public safety stakeholders from across the country, as well as key vendors, to learn the latest and greatest technology and investments.

Lastly, the FirstNet Authority met with Chief Partridge and some of the staff from the City of Oxford Police Department in Alabama. We, along with AT&T FirstNet, wanted to learn more about their operations and technology use for their daily missions. This agency is a very progressive agency when it comes to the use of all forms of technology. And they consider FirstNet a key factor in being able to operate -- operationalize the remote equipment they have deployed throughout their day-to-day operations. They continually use a wide range of detection and investigative devices through their jurisdictions that are controlled or viewed in a Real Time Crime Center, which is currently connected to about 40 agencies across the region. And that numbers can continue to grow as they add. Something else I'd like to talk about on the Oxford Police Department. The Department is proud, and they are one of the first users in Alabama to purchase a compact rapid deployable for only their agency. We met with members of the Police Department's flight crew for the aviation and maritime project. As I mentioned previously, we are collecting data from them.

Mr. Chair that concludes my update, and I'll turn it back over to you. Thank you.

Stephen Benjamin:

Thank you, Rich. Now we're going to get an update from the amazing Chair of our Programs and Future Planning Committee, Jocelyn Moore. The floor is yours.

Jocelyn Moore:

Thank you, Chair Benjamin. Good morning. Let me begin my remarks by adding my voice to the chorus thanking Commander Goddard and members of the City of Angels' first responder community for their service. Having spent time at the NFL, I know the precision with which first responders execute both physical and cyber security measures to protect fans at large-scale sports and entertainment events. It is definitely something to behold and yet another proof positive for the significant community benefit of FirstNet.

Next, I'd like to share with the Board some takeaways from our in-depth Programs and Future Planning Committee meeting held on July 12. The Authority staff updated the Committee on the Band 14 RAN deployment Task Order 4 that will be reaching Final Operational Capability in March of next year. I'm excited to see the tremendous amount of progress and the growth of the Band 14 coverage footprint year over year. And even more impressive if you consider the deployment of Band 14 started in March of 2018, just over four years now. Over 1,000 new cell sites will have been built as a part of the FirstNet deployment, bringing much-needed coverage for first responders in areas where they operate, as well as extensive rural coverage implementation. There was also an in-depth discussion during the Committee meeting that ties directly to the focus of today's Board meeting or the approval of the FY '23 FirstNet Authority Operation -- FirstNet Authority Operations Budget.

The Committee was briefed on all of the tools in the toolbox, and as Jeff knows, I always like to talk about the tools in the toolbox. All of the tools in the toolbox that the Authority staff use to assist in independently analyzing network coverage and services available to subscribers. These tools include a contract that is being used to perform drive testing across all states, specialized user devices that are used to collect data in areas that are reported to have coverage issues, a third-party contract leveraging crowd-sourced data, and finally, the internal controls and support for an independent third-party FirstNet cybersecurity analysis. In conclusion, Mr. Chair, we were also given an update on several new FirstNet innovations to be released in the near future. These innovations will continue the integration of land mobile radio to FirstNet as well as FirstNet's Push-to-Talk broadband device that is now being demonstrated in several agencies.

I'll now turn this over to Jeff Bratcher, our Chief Network and Technology Officer, to provide an in-depth report on recent progress and milestones. Next slide, please. Jeff.

Jeff Bratcher:

Thank you, Committee Chairwoman Moore, for asking me to present the Quarterly FirstNet Network Status Update to the Board today. We're pleased to report that the adoption and use of public safety responders by their network, FirstNet built with AT&T, continued to grow this past quarter. Based upon AT&T's most recently quarterly earnings report, this slide reflects the numbers announced at the end of the second quarter of 2022. As Lisa Casias mentioned earlier, we are pleased to share with the Board that the FirstNet network is now providing dedicated wireless service to more than 3.7 million public safety device connections across more than 21,000 public safety agencies and organizations across all 56 states and territories. It was very exciting to hear directly from Commander Goddard that the LAPD now has over 7,000-plus smartphone connections on the FirstNet network. And it's extremely rewarding to see firsthand how FirstNet is being used at SoFi Stadium here locally. The examples he shared about how the LAPD are now operationalizing the use of smartphones powered by FirstNet are fantastic and how they are now looking at innovative ways of using those FirstNet devices and service to evolve their mission-critical operations.

The growth in the FirstNet-ready devices and application catalog continues at a steady pace. And as you mentioned, we're closing in on our Final Operational Capability. We're Task Order 4, which is scheduled in March of 2023. We're beyond that 95 percent metric of proposed coverage from AT&T, and we're excited to see that closing in. Our FirstNet Authority staff are knee-deep in the program and contractual review process of validating and verifying these numbers and the Band 14 coverage metrics, leveraging the tools that you described earlier, Chairwoman Moore.

Most recently, we had staff visit Guam and Saipan along with AT&T FirstNet to perform contract checkpoints on the FirstNet deployments in the territories. This slide we update regularly as well to show the growth of connections using FirstNet historically. The most recent second quarter bar illustrates an increase of over 400,000 connections since we last briefed the Board in May in New Hampshire. And a reminder that these numbers include connections for FirstNet service that are paid for by agencies on behalf of their public safety staff, as well as what we refer to as subscriber-paid connections. Subscriber-paid connections are the volunteer firefighters and EMTs, for example, that pay for their own lines of service on FirstNet. We're

excited about the recent announcement from the AT&T FirstNet team regarding their FirstNet and Family approach, which will allow for the subscriber-paid connections to have one bill for their FirstNet service and their family's lines of commercial service on AT&T.

And finally, this last slide shows the illustration of the quarter by the quarter of the public safety agencies using FirstNet and paying for that those lines of service for their mission-critical staff. The most recent quarter illustrates an increase of over 1,300 agencies that are now adopting and using FirstNet. Thank you again, Chairwoman Moore and to the PFP Committee members for your support and dedication. I would especially like to thank Board and Committee member Warren Mickens for his direct involvement over the last several months in assisting staff in developing market background materials that we briefed the Board on yesterday.

I will now turn the meeting back over to you, Chairman Benjamin.

Stephen Benjamin:

That was an amazing presentation. That makes it clear that we are fulfilling our mission to build, deploy, operate, maintain, and upgrade a nationwide interoperable public safety broadband network, and we are just getting started. It's amazing. It really is. And I want to thank everyone for the incredible leadership here. Thank you, Chairwoman Moore. And Jeff, just for your great leadership.

I'm going to -- we're going to -- that concludes our business for the Board today. Before turning it over to Acting CEO, Lisa Casias, to close us out, again, I want to thank Commander Goddard for joining us today. We had Sergeant LaGreek also showing us around yesterday, doing a fantastic job at SoFi. And always want to thank PSAC Chair Chris Lombard for his leadership and leadership with PSAC, always keeping us on the mission, which is serving the needs of the men and women who keep us safe every single day. Thank you for being willing to share your insights with this Board. It's invaluable to us as we seek to improve this network through our partnership with our partner, AT&T.

I'll hand this over to Lisa for her to say a few words.

Lisa Casias:

Great, thank you, Chairman. Just a quick note before we conclude today, we are currently working with a recruitment firm to conduct a search for candidates for the FirstNet Authority CEO position, and an informational website and the position will soon be available to the public and available via firstnet.gov and other communication channels, followed by a posting on USAJOBS. Please stay tuned for this information. We will share it far and wide once it's available. As we've demonstrated by the Board meeting today, it's really an exciting and innovative time to be part of the FirstNet Authority and the FirstNet mission. And we look forward to the important work ahead in the next fiscal year as we seek to advance FirstNet for and with our public safety stakeholders. Thank you.

Stephen Benjamin:

Thank you, Lisa. Well, I would like the record to reflect that we're on time and under budget --

[laughter]

Stephen Benjamin:

-- on wrapping up this meeting. So, we're now prepared to adjourn this meeting. May we have a motion to adjourn?

Paul Patrick:

Mr. Chair, Paul Patrick. I move that we adjourn.

Stephen Benjamin:

Is there a second?

Billy Bob Brown Jr.:

This is Board Member Billy Bob Brown, Jr. I second the motion.

Stephen Benjamin:

Thank you so much. Is -- all in favor, say aye.

Multiple Speakers:

Aye.

Stephen Benjamin:

Opposed? All right, Any abstentions? Thank you again to everyone who participated in the Combined Board and Committees meeting and the audience who joined us over WebEx, and to all the amazing staff who made all this come together and possible. And the tech team in the back of the room, too. Thank you so much. May God bless you. This meeting is now adjourned.

Peter Koutoujian:

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[end of transcript]