U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
FIRST RESPONDER NETWORK AUTHORITY
ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CHARTER

Revised, December 05, 2019

Origin

The FirstNet Board established the Advocacy Committee to review and recommend actions (as described below) related to FirstNet's outreach, engagement, and collaboration efforts with local, state, territorial, tribal, and federal public safety entities, associations, and governance bodies in order to promote the adoption and improvement of the FirstNet network and to enhance public safety broadband communications.

Committee Membership

The Advocacy Committee shall consist of at least three members. Advocacy Committee members shall be recommended by the Advocacy Committee Chair and appointed by the FirstNet Board Chair for such term or terms as the FirstNet Board Chair may determine. Advocacy Committee members serve at the pleasure of, and may be replaced at any time by the FirstNet Board Chair. Only members of the FirstNet Board may serve as a member of the Advocacy Committee.

Committee Structure and Operations

The FirstNet Board Chair shall designate one member as the Advocacy Committee Chair. The Advocacy Committee shall meet publicly in person or telephonically at least four times a year, with additional meetings to occur, or actions to be taken by unanimous written consent, when deemed desirable or appropriate by the Advocacy Committee Chair or a majority of the Advocacy Committee. The Advocacy Committee Chair will determine the time and place for each meeting.

The Advocacy Committee may, in its discretion, form and delegate authority to one or more subcommittees. The Advocacy Committee Chair may invite such members of management to attend the meetings or portions thereof as the Advocacy Committee Chair may deem desirable or appropriate. Any member of the FirstNet Board may attend any meeting of the Advocacy Committee and may participate as the Advocacy Committee Chair deems appropriate.

Committee Duties and Responsibilities

In addition to the principal duties and responsibilities described below, the Advocacy Committee will undertake such other duties and responsibilities as the FirstNet Board may delegate or direct and will report to the FirstNet Board periodically and as may be deemed necessary by the Advocacy Committee. The primary duties and responsibilities of the Advocacy Committee are as follows:

1. Review and provide recommendations to management's approach for engaging, informing, educating and collaborating with the public safety community on the FirstNet program and network.
2. In collaboration with management, participate in engagement activities with the public safety community.
3. Review and provide recommendations to management on FirstNet's Roadmap and priorities for their likelihood to satisfy public safety's broadband communications needs.
4. In collaboration with management, promote efforts to foster, recognize, and identify innovation opportunities with the public safety community that differentiate the FirstNet network and demonstrate mission/operational impact.
5. In collaboration with management, contribute to the development of and adhere to consistent external communications, including messaging, branding and marketing, and engagement with public safety, media sources, and federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local governments.

Annual Summary of Accomplishments and Charter Review

The Advocacy Committee shall review and reassess the adequacy of this Charter annually and recommend any proposed changes to the FirstNet Board for approval. The Advocacy Committee shall provide to the FirstNet Board an annual summary of accomplishments. The FirstNet Board shall compare the Advocacy Committee's accomplishments with the requirements of this Charter. The summary to the FirstNet Board may take the form of an oral report by the Advocacy Committee Chair, or by any other Advocacy Committee member.

Resources and Authority

In carrying out its responsibilities, the Advocacy Committee shall have the necessary resources and authority, consistent with the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, to discharge its duties and responsibilities, including the authority to obtain advice or assistance from internal or external legal, human resource, accounting or other experts, advisors, or consultants as appropriate, all in coordination with management and the FirstNet Board.

Nothing contained in this Charter shall be construed as circumscribing the authority of the Inspector General under the Inspector General Act and applicable Department of Commerce Administrative Orders, and nothing contained in this Charter is intended to restrict the authority of the Inspector General to conduct, supervise, and coordinate audits, inspections, evaluations, investigations, and other reviews relating to the programs and any other operations of FirstNet.

Nothing contained in this Charter is intended, and it should be interpreted to exclude, any expansion of the responsibility of the FirstNet Board or its members beyond, or violation of, applicable statutory or regulatory requirements and authorities.