



# CITY OF McALLEN

September 30, 2020

Federal Communications Commission  
1270 Fairfield Road  
Gettysburg, PA 17325

JAMES E. DARLING, Mayor  
VERONICA WHITACRE, Mayor Pro Tem & Commissioner District 6  
JAVIER VILLALOBOS, Commissioner District 1  
JOAQUIN J. ZAMORA, Commissioner District 2  
J. OMAR QUINTANILLA, Commissioner District 3  
TANIA RAMIREZ, Commissioner District 4  
VICTOR "SEBY" HADDAD, Commissioner District 5

ROEL "ROY" RODRIGUEZ, P.E., City Manager

**RE: Public Safety Communication / Officer Safety Emergency**  
RGVCG/City of McAllen STA/800 Freeze Waiver Request

To Whom it may concern:

Over the last 6 to 8 months we have been experiencing intermittent interference over the entire 700 MHz Public Safety Band which renders all our 700 MHz repeaters unusable. We reported the extreme interference to the FCC. FCC monitoring has determined that the interference is coming from Mexico. With no quick fix available, we are requesting to move all 700 MHz repeaters to 800 MHz frequencies, which has been unaffected by the interference to this point.

We have completed the emergency purchase of replacement equipment to make the urgent move from 700 MHz to 800 MHz frequencies coordinated by APCO and our Region Planning Committee 53.

This letter is to request a waiver of the 800 MHz application freeze and to justify the request for issuance of an STA. The City of McAllen holds a license for frequencies in the 700 MHz spectrum which are used in the RGVCG Regional Radio System. This system provides LMR service to over 120 Public Safety agencies in the Brooks, Cameron, Hidalgo, Kennedy, Starr and Willacy County areas. We have approximately 140 repeaters in 14 sites across the area used by local, state, and federal Public Safety Agencies. Over 40 of the repeaters are on 700 MHz.

Lives are at stake when this Mexico interference incapacitates our communications system sites. A waiver of the freeze on 800 MHz applications and issuance of an STA will give us the ability to restore Public Safety Communications and Officer Safety in our 6 County area.

Thank you for your urgent response.

Sincerely,

Roel "Roy" Rodriguez, P.E.  
City Manager