

June 10, 2024



VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Notice of Ex Parte* Presentation, In the Matter of Wireless Emergency Alerts, PS Docket No. 15-91, Amendments to Part 11 of the Commission’s Rules Regarding the Emergency Alert System, PS Docket 15-94

Board of Directors

Roanne Robinson-Shaddox, Chair
Brian Brashier, Vice-Chair
Gerad Godfrey, Treasurer
Clarice Chiago-Jones, Secretary
Samantha Honani, Member

President/CEO

Loris Taylor

Dear Ms. Dortch

This letter is to notify you that on June 6, 2024, Loris Taylor, Brian Wadsworth, Ellery Charley, Kyler Edsitty, and Gaileen Keams of Native Public Media (“NPM”) participated in a Zoom meeting with representatives from the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau (“CGB”), including Theodore C. Marcus, Cara Voth, Deputy Bureau Chief, Kristi Thornton, Deputy Division Chief, Consumer Policy Division, and members from the Office of Native Affairs and Policy (“ONAP”), CGB, including Bambi Kraus, Chief, and Jamie Saloom, Acting Deputy Chief, regarding plans for the June 13, 2024, Arizona Missing and Endangered Persons (“MEP”) Tribal Consultation. During this meeting, Chief Kraus requested that NPM provide a summary of the comments filed in the above-captioned proceedings on May 20, 2024.

NPM summarized each section of its filed comments. In section I, NPM highlighted the disproportionate impact of missing and murdered cases on indigenous communities. Section II emphasized the necessity of a unique event code for endangered adults not adequately protected by current alert systems. Section III focused on the need for a uniform federal response to the currently fragmented alert infrastructure. In section IV, NPM discussed the crucial role ONAP should play in engaging with tribal nations to encourage and support them in becoming Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (“IPAWS”) Alerting Authorities. Finally, section V underscored the importance of the Commission adopting a vision and values statement centering on the human lives at stake in these proceedings.

Chief Kraus and her colleagues asked specific questions about sections IV and V of NPM’s comments. In response to questions about section IV, NPM emphasized the importance of empowering tribal nations to take a leading role in addressing the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous persons through the implementation of the MEP event code. To this end, ONAP, as a trusted ally, should assist by proactively reaching out to tribes, providing information and guidance on becoming IPAWS Alerting Authorities, and offering the necessary technical assistance and resources to support tribes in this process. NPM emphasized that tribal governments, as sovereign entities, have the inherent right and responsibility to protect their citizens and that enabling them directly to issue alerts through IPAWS would be a powerful step towards enhancing the

safety of indigenous communities. NPM underscored that this engagement must be grounded in a deep respect for tribal sovereignty and tailored to the unique needs and challenges of each tribal community.

Regarding section V, NPM discussed the importance of the Commission adopting a shared vision and values statement to guide the implementation of the MEP event code. NPM renewed its advocacy for such a statement as an essential tool to ensure that the human lives impacted by the missing and murdered Indigenous persons crisis remain at the forefront of these proceedings. NPM noted that while the Commission's role is primarily regulatory and technical, this issue's profound human toll demands a response beyond mere bureaucratic requirements. A clear statement of purpose and principles would serve as a powerful acknowledgment of the lives at stake and provide a moral compass for all stakeholders involved in implementing the MEP event code, from the Commission itself to the broadcasters, law enforcement agencies, and tribal nations on the frontlines of this crisis. NPM stressed that by adopting such a statement, the Commission would signal that the gravity of this issue and the commitment to addressing it has the urgency and compassion it deserves.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, this notice is being filed electronically in the above-referenced dockets.

Respectfully submitted,

Loris Taylor

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cc: Bambi Kraus
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