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U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker Appoints Five New Members to the First Responder Network Authority Board

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker today announced the appointment of five leading experts on public safety, wireless broadband communications, and state and local government to serve on the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Board. FirstNet is an independent authority within Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) mandated by Congress to develop, build and operate the first nationwide wireless public safety broadband network. The network will enable better communication among local, state, regional, tribal and national emergency services personnel, improving response time and saving lives.

The FirstNet Board represents the interests of a wide range of stakeholders, including public safety; states, territories, tribes and localities; and urban and rural residents. The Commerce Department works with the Board to select new members who bring considerable public safety, network, technology, and/or finance expertise to the group. The following individuals were appointed to the board:

- Chris Burbank, Chief of Police, Salt Lake City Police Department
- James H. Douglas, former Governor of Vermont
- Annise Parker, Mayor, City of Houston, Texas
- Frank Plastina, technology executive, North Carolina
- Ed Reynolds, retired telecommunications executive (reappointed)
- Richard Stanek, Sheriff, Hennepin County, Minnesota

"I greatly appreciate the willingness of these individuals to serve our nation in the critical task of ensuring our first responders have the tools they need to

perform their live-saving work," said Secretary Pritzker. "Over the past two years, the FirstNet Board has made progress toward fulfilling the mission mandated by Congress to create the country's first nationwide broadband network dedicated to helping firefighters, police and emergency responders to communicate more effectively and keep communities safe. The new members of the board bring great experience to help carry out FirstNet's important mission."

Read the full article at: <http://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2014/09/04/us-secretary-commerce-penny-pritzker-appoints-five-new-members-first->