

(Responsible Party: Kathleen Dezio), has applied in due form for a permit to receive, import, and export marine mammal parts for scientific research.

**DATES:** Written, telefaxed, or email comments must be received on or before October 19, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** The application and related documents are available for review by selecting "Records Open for Public Comment" from the "Features" box on the Applications and Permits for Protected Species (APPS) home page, <https://apps.nmfs.noaa.gov>, and then selecting File No. 23447 from the list of available applications. These documents are also available upon written request via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov).

Written comments on this application should be submitted via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). Please include File No. 23447 in the subject line of the email comment.

Those individuals requesting a public hearing should submit a written request via email to [NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov](mailto:NMFS.Pr1Comments@noaa.gov). The request should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this application would be appropriate.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jennifer Skidmore or Courtney Smith, (301) 427-8401.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (MMPA; 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking and importing of marine mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered and threatened species (50 CFR parts 222-226), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

The applicant proposes to receive, import, and export marine mammal parts (unlimited samples from up to 700 individual cetaceans and 400 individual pinnipeds [excluding walrus]) to study and enhance the health and biology of both wild marine mammals and those in public display, research, and stranding facilities. Research topics include diseases of marine mammals, pathology, health diagnostics, endocrinology, effects of environmental contaminants, immunology, toxicology, stock structure, distribution, age determination, reproduction, sperm preservation, artificial insemination, feeding habits and nutrition. Specimens and parts will come from the following U. S. or foreign sources: Animals in captivity (samples taken during routine

husbandry procedures or under separate authorization); animals in foreign countries stranded alive or dead or that died during rehabilitation; animals killed during legal subsistence harvests; animals killed incidental to legal commercial fishing operations; or samples from other authorized persons or collections. It is expected that the majority of samples would be exchanged between designated Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums members (from captive animals) and their collaborators. The proposed action will not result in additional takes of individual animals. The applicant has requested a 5-year permit.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), an initial determination has been made that the activity proposed is categorically excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, NMFS is forwarding copies of the application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

Dated: September 14, 2020.

**Julia Marie Harrison**,  
*Chief, Permits and Conservation Division,*  
*Office of Protected Resources, National*  
*Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Telecommunications and Information Administration

#### Recruitment of First Responder Network Authority Board Members

**AGENCY:** National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) issues this Notice on behalf of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) to initiate the annual process to seek expressions of interest from individuals who would like to serve on the FirstNet Authority Board (Board). The terms of four of the 12 non-permanent members to the FirstNet Authority Board will expire in January 2021.

**DATES:** To be considered for a January 2021 appointment, expressions of interest must be electronically

transmitted on or before October 19, 2020.

**ADDRESSES:** Applicants should submit expressions of interest as described below to: Michael Dame, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Public Safety Communications, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, by email to [FirstNetBoardApplicant@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:FirstNetBoardApplicant@ntia.doc.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael Dame, Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Public Safety Communications, National Telecommunications and Information Administration; telephone: (202) 482-1181; email: [mdame@ntia.gov](mailto:mdame@ntia.gov). Please direct media inquiries to NTIA's Office of Public Affairs, (202) 482-7002.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Background and Authority

The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Act) created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority) as an independent authority within NTIA. The Act charged FirstNet Authority with ensuring the building, deployment, and operation of a nationwide, interoperable public safety broadband network, based on a single, national network architecture.<sup>1</sup> The FirstNet Authority holds the single nationwide public safety license granted for wireless public safety broadband deployment. The FirstNet Authority Board is responsible for providing overall policy direction and oversight of the FirstNet Authority to ensure that the nationwide network continuously meets the needs of public safety.

##### II. Structure

The FirstNet Authority Board is composed of 15 voting members. The Act names the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, the Attorney General of the United States, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget as permanent members of the FirstNet Authority Board. The Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) appoints the 12 non-permanent members of the FirstNet Authority Board.<sup>2</sup>

The Act requires each Board member to have experience or expertise in at least one of the following substantive areas: public safety, network, technical, and/or financial.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, the composition of the FirstNet Authority Board must satisfy the other requirements specified in the Act, including that: (i) At least three Board

<sup>1</sup> 47 U.S.C. 1422(b).

<sup>2</sup> 47 U.S.C. 1424(b).

<sup>3</sup> 47 U.S.C. 1424(b)(2)(B).

members have served as public safety professionals; (ii) at least three members represent the collective interests of states, localities, tribes, and territories; and (iii) its members reflect geographic and regional, as well as rural and urban, representation.<sup>4</sup> An individual Board member may satisfy more than one of these requirements. The current non-permanent FirstNet Authority Board members are (noting expiration of term):

- Robert Tipton Osterthaler, Board Chair, Business/technology executive, network (Term expires: January 2021)
- Matt Slinkard, Executive Assistant Chief of Police, City of Houston Police Department (Term expires: January 2021)
- David Zolet, CEO, CentralSquare (Term expires: January 2021)
- Vacant, vice former Sheriff Richard W. Stanek, resigned August 2020 (Term expires: January 2021)
- Richard Carrizzo, Board Vice Chair, Fire Chief, Southern Platte Fire Protection District, MO (Term expires: August 2021)
- Neil E. Cox, Telecommunications/technology executive (Term expires: August 2021)
- Brian Crawford, SVP and Chief Administrative Officer for Willis Knighton Health System/former Fire Chief and municipal government executive (Term expires: August 2021)
- Billy Hewes, Mayor of Gulfport, MS (Term expires: August 2021)
- Edward Horowitz, Venture capital/technology executive (Term expires: August 2021)
- Paul Patrick, Division Director, Family Health and Preparedness, Utah Department of Health (Term expires: August 2021)
- Brigadier General Welton Chase, Retired, U. S. Army, Army Information Technology (Term expires: September 2021)
- Karima Holmes, Director, Office of Unified Communications, District of Columbia (Term expires: August 2022)

Board members will be appointed for a term of three years. Board members may not serve more than two consecutive full three-year terms.<sup>5</sup> More information about the FirstNet Authority Board is available at [www.firstnet.gov/about/Board](http://www.firstnet.gov/about/Board).

#### IV. Compensation and Status as Government Employees

FirstNet Authority Board members are appointed as special government employees. FirstNet Authority Board members are compensated at the daily rate of basic pay for level IV of the

Executive Schedule (approximately \$170,800 per year) for each day worked on the FirstNet Authority Board.<sup>6</sup> Each Board member must be a United States citizen, cannot be a registered lobbyist, and cannot be a registered agent of, employed by, or receive payments from, a foreign government.<sup>7</sup>

#### IV. Financial Disclosure and Conflicts of Interest

FirstNet Authority Board members must comply with certain federal conflict of interest statutes and ethics regulations, including some financial disclosure requirements. A FirstNet Authority Board member will generally be prohibited from participating on any particular FirstNet Authority matter that will have a direct and predictable effect on his or her personal financial interests or on the interests of the appointee's spouse, minor children, or non-federal employer.

#### V. Selection Process

At the direction of the Secretary, NTIA will conduct outreach to the public safety community, state and local organizations, and industry to solicit nominations for candidates to the Board who satisfy the statutory requirements for membership. In addition, the Secretary, through NTIA, will accept expressions of interest from any individual, or from any organization proposing a candidate who satisfies the statutory requirements for membership on the FirstNet Authority Board. To be considered for a January 2021 appointment, expressions of interest must be electronically transmitted on or before October 19, 2020.

All parties submitting an expression of interest should submit the candidate's (i) full name, address, telephone number, email address; (ii) current resume; (iii) statement of qualifications that references how the candidate satisfies the Act's expertise, representational, and geographic requirements for FirstNet Authority Board membership, as described in this Notice; and (iv) a statement describing why the candidate wants to serve on the FirstNet Authority Board, affirming their ability and availability to take a regular and active role in the Board's work.

The Secretary will select FirstNet Authority Board candidates based on the eligibility requirements in the Act and recommendations submitted by NTIA. NTIA will recommend

candidates based on an assessment of qualifications as well as demonstrated ability to work in a collaborative way to achieve the goals and objectives of the FirstNet Authority as set forth in the Act. NTIA may consult with FirstNet Authority Board members or executives in making its recommendation. Board candidates will be vetted through the Department of Commerce and are subject to an appropriate background check for security clearance.

Dated: September 15, 2020.

**Kathy Smith,**

*Chief Counsel, National Telecommunications and Information Administration.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Telecommunications and Information Administration

#### First Responder Network Authority

#### Combined Board and Board Committees Meeting

**AGENCY:** First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet Authority), National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Announcement of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The FirstNet Authority Board will convene an open public meeting of the Board and Board Committees.

**DATES:** September 30, 2020; 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST); WebEx.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meeting will be conducted via teleconference and WebEx only. Members of the public may listen to the meeting by dialing toll-free: 1-800-369-1723 and enter participant code 2081846#. If you experience technical difficulty, please contact the Conferencing Center Customer Service at: 1-866-900-1011. To view the slide presentation, the public may visit the URL: <https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join/> and enter Conference Number: PWXW1405740 and Audience Passcode: 2081846. Alternately, members of the public may view the slide presentation directly by visiting the URL: <https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PWXW1405740&p=2081846&t=c>. The teleconference and WebEx information can also be found on the FirstNet website (FirstNet.gov).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** *For General Information:* Janell Smith, (202) 257-5929, [Janell.Smith@FirstNet.gov](mailto:Janell.Smith@FirstNet.gov).

<sup>4</sup> 47 U.S.C. 1424(b)(2)(A).

<sup>5</sup> 47 U.S.C. 1424(c)(2)(A)(ii).

<sup>6</sup> 47 U.S.C. 1424(g).

<sup>7</sup> See, Revised Guidance on Appointment of Lobbyists to Federal Advisory Committees, Boards, and Commissions, Office of Management and Budget, 79 FR 47482 (Aug. 13, 2014).