

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****The 50th Meeting of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force**

**AGENCY:** The Coral Reef Conservation Program, Office for Coastal Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NOAA and the Department of Interior (DOI) will hold the 50th meeting of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF). NOAA and DOI will be accepting oral comments during the meeting; written comments may be submitted in advance.

**DATES:** NOAA and DOI will hold a public meeting on Thursday, May 15, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) at the Department of Interior's Yates Auditorium, 1849 C St. NW, Washington, DC 20240. Advanced registration is required to attend; please register online at <https://www.coralreef.gov/>.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be submitted by the following methods:

*Oral Comments:* NOAA and DOI will accept oral comments at the meeting on Thursday, May 15, 2025, from 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. ET.

*Email:* Please direct written comments to Michael Lameier, NOAA, USCRTF Steering Committee Point of Contact, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program at [michael.lameier@noaa.gov](mailto:michael.lameier@noaa.gov). In the subject heading of your email, please include "Written comments for the 50th U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting." Written comments must be received before 8 a.m. ET on Tuesday, May 13th, 2025. The oral and written comments NOAA and DOI receive are considered part of the public record, and the entirety of the comment, including the name of the commenter, email address, attachments, and other supporting materials, will be publicly accessible. Sensitive personally identifiable information, such as account numbers and Social Security numbers, should not be included with the comment. Comments that are not related to the USCRTF or that contain profanity, vulgarity, threats, or other inappropriate language will not be considered. Commenters are encouraged to ensure comments address the USCRTF meeting, the role of the USCRTF, or general coral reef conservation issues.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Michael Lameier, NOAA USCRTF Steering Committee Point of Contact, NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, (410) 267-5673, [michael.lameier@noaa.gov](mailto:michael.lameier@noaa.gov), or Liza Johnson, DOI USCRTF Steering Committee Executive Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior, (202) 255-9843, [Liza\\_M\\_Johnson@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Liza_M_Johnson@ios.doi.gov), or visit the USCRTF website at <https://www.coralreef.gov/>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The USCRTF meeting provides a forum for coordinated planning and action among Federal agencies, State and territorial governments, and non-governmental partners. Registration is requested to participate in the meeting. This meeting has time allotted for public oral comment from 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. ET. A written summary of the meeting will be posted on the USCRTF website within two months of occurrence. For more information about the meeting, and registering for the meeting, visit <https://www.coralreef.gov/>.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 6451 *et seq.*; E.O. 13089, 63 FR 32701.

**Nicole R. LeBoeuf,**

*Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-08-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****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 to initiate the annual process of seeking expressions of interest from individuals who would like to serve on the Board of the First Responder Network Authority ("FirstNet Authority Board" or the "Board"). The term for one of the twelve non-permanent members of the FirstNet Authority Board will be available for appointment or reappointment in 2025. Additionally, one of the 12 non-permanent members to the FirstNet Authority Board resigned prior to the end of her term. The Secretary of Commerce will appoint an individual to complete that Board member's three-year term through September 2027. This Notice will apply

for any other vacancies that may occur in 2025.

**DATES:** To be considered for the calendar year 2025 appointments, expressions of interest must be electronically transmitted on or before June 2, 2025.

**ADDRESSES:** Applicants should submit expressions of interest as described below to Michael Dame, 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, 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 at [press@ntia.gov](mailto:press@ntia.gov).

**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 the 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 public safety needs.

**II. Structure**

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

<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).

requirements specified in the Act, including that: (i) at least three 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):

- Vacant, formerly filled by Keisha Lance Bottoms, resigned (Term expires: September 2027)
- Vice Chair Renee Gordon, Director, Department of Emergency and Customer Communications, Alexandria, VA (Term expires: September 2025)
- Michael Adkinson Jr., Sheriff, Walton County, FL (Term expires: September 2027)
- Damon Darsey, Medical Director, Mississippi Department of Public Safety | CEO, Paladin Emergency Services Consulting (Term expires: September 2027)
- Eric Gaull, Emergency Manager, First Responder, Technology Consultant (Term expires: September 2027)
- Sean McDevitt, Partner, Arthur D. Little (Term expires: September 2027)
- Warren Mickens, Retired Technology Executive (Term expires: September 2027)
- Jocelyn Moore, Board Member for Omaze, OppFi, and DraftKings (Term expires: September 2027)
- Alexandra Fernandez Navarro, Former Associate Member, Puerto Rico Public Service Regulatory Board (Term expires: September 2027)
- Jeffrey Norman, Chief of Police, Milwaukee, WI (Term expires: September 2027)
- Rasheid Scarlett, CEO, NetAesthetics (Term expires: September 2027)
- Trisha Wolford, Fire Chief, Anne Arundel County Fire Department, MD (Term expires: September 2027)

Any Board member whose term has expired may serve until such member's successor has taken office, or until the end of the calendar year when such member's term has expired, whichever is earlier.<sup>5</sup> Board members will be appointed for a term of three years. They may not serve more than two consecutive full three-year terms.<sup>6</sup> More information about the FirstNet Authority Board is available at [www.firstnet.gov/about/Board](http://www.firstnet.gov/about/Board). Since one appointment in 2025 will be filling

a mid-term vacancy, that newly appointed member will complete the existing term as a board member until September 2027.

### III. Compensation and Status as Government Employees

FirstNet Authority Board members are appointed as government employees. FirstNet Authority Board members are compensated at the daily rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule (approximately \$195,200 per year) for each day worked (\$748.24 per day) on the FirstNet Authority Board.<sup>7</sup> Board members work intermittent schedules and may not work more than 130 days per year during their term. 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>8</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 in any 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, through NTIA, the Secretary will accept expressions of interest from any individual or organization proposing a candidate who satisfies the statutory requirements for membership on the FirstNet Authority Board. To be considered for a calendar year 2025 appointment, expressions of interest must be electronically transmitted on or before June 2, 2025.

All parties submitting an expression of interest should submit the candidate's: (i) full name, title, organization, address, telephone number, and email address; (ii) current resume; (iii) brief biography; (iv)

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 (v) 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 Act's eligibility requirements and NTIA's recommendations. NTIA will recommend candidates based on an assessment of qualifications and demonstrated ability to work collaboratively 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 to make its recommendation. Board candidates will be vetted through the Department of Commerce and are subject to an appropriate background check for security clearance.

Dated: April 28, 2025.

**David Brodian,**

*Chief Counsel, National Telecommunications and Information Administration.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-WL-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

#### Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Patents External Quality Survey

**AGENCY:** United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of information collection; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, invites comments on the extension and revision of an existing information collection: 0651-0057 (Patents External Quality Survey). The purpose of this notice is to allow 60 days for public comments preceding submission of the information collection to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

**DATES:** To ensure consideration, you must submit comments regarding this information collection on or before June 30, 2025.

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

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

<sup>6</sup> 47 U.S.C. 1424(c)(2)(A)(ii).

<sup>7</sup> 47 U.S.C. 1424(g).

<sup>8</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).