

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN AJIT PAI**

Re: *Jay Peralta, Corona, New York*, File No. EB-FIELDNER-16-00022343.

Today, the FCC makes it abundantly clear that it will not tolerate unauthorized and illegal use of the radio spectrum. This may not be a typical pirate radio case in which an unauthorized operator inflicts damage on a radio broadcaster that is operating with a valid FCC license, but it does involve unauthorized interference to critical public safety communications systems.

Jay Peralta deliberately disregarded the Commission's rules and the safety and security of New York City Police Department (NYPD) officers and the general public when he operated a radio on frequencies licensed to the NYPD without FCC authorization. Mr. Peralta's nine unauthorized and interfering transmissions involved false bomb threats, false claims of criminal activities involving firearms, false distress calls from purported NYPD officers, and threats against NYPD officers. These transmissions were malicious and egregious actions that could have caused substantial and widespread harm.

For as long as the FCC has existed, the agency has had the important mission of preventing radio interference. And within the realm of public safety, the FCC has no higher purpose than promoting secure and reliable public safety and emergency response communications. The Commission must continue to discharge these critical duties—and vigorous prosecution of the fight against unauthorized operators is an important way to do so.

I am grateful to my fellow Commissioners for agreeing to act swiftly and strongly in this serious matter.