



U.S. BLACK CHAMBERS, INC.

The National Voice of Black Business

**Not affiliated with the National Black Chamber of Commerce*

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room TWA325
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Applications of T-Mobile US, Inc. and Sprint Corporation, Consolidated Applications for Consent To Transfer Control of Licenses and Authorizations, WT Docket No. 18-197

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of the U.S. Black Chambers, Inc. ("USBC"), I write to voice our support for the proposed merger of T-Mobile and Sprint. The merger promises to cement the United States' economic leadership by forming a third mobile broadband operator with enough scale and investment capabilities to hasten the deployment of a 5G network for the benefit of African-American businesses, communities, educators, and students.

USBC provides committed, visionary leadership and advocacy to realize economic empowerment for the black community. Through the creation of resources and initiatives, we support African American Chambers of Commerce and business organizations in their work developing and growing black economic enterprises. To that end, USBC is active before the FCC and has expressed its support for the Commission's ongoing efforts to promote wireless deployment.

Wireless technology is an essential tool for black businesses. No longer a luxury, mobile broadband has become a lifeline for the 2.58 million black-owned businesses that employ more than 975,000 people and generate \$150.2 billion in annual revenue across every sector of the U.S. economy. To thrive in today's digital landscape, our businesses need the power, speed, and reliability of next-generation 5G networks. These networks will also empower smart communities that will then generate new jobs and opportunities.

5G networks can mean more robust economic development, stronger and broader educational options, enhanced public safety, and greater access to health care for our communities. For example, 5G will support augmented and virtual reality programs that can enable education in remote locations or neighborhoods harmed by underfunded schools. The deployment of 5G will also help first responders, improve public safety, and reduce crime by identifying patterns that may suggest an emergency in a high risk area. And reliable, super fast connectivity into the home can

improve medical outcomes by shifting the point of care away from expensive doctors' offices and hospitals.

USBC supports the proposed merger of T-Mobile and Sprint because these companies are committed to investing in a better network and supporting minority-owned businesses and suppliers in the process. The New T-Mobile has committed to invest nearly \$40 billion in 5G in the first three years alone. Increased investment on this scale will enable deployment in new markets, including black communities that are historically underserved or out-priced by the two largest carriers.

USBC is encouraged by T-Mobile's longstanding commitment to diverse communities. T-Mobile has a strong history of diversity and inclusion as an employer. In June 2018, for example, T-Mobile CEO John Legere was named by Comparably as the best CEO for diversity among large companies of 500 employees or more. T-Mobile has received numerous other accolades for its diversity and inclusion efforts for its employees.

T-Mobile also has a proven record of dedicating a significant portion of its spending on diverse partners and suppliers. In California alone, T-Mobile's diverse spend with certified suppliers has increased almost ten-fold from 2011 to 2017, from \$69.6 million to \$656.4 million. In the last year, T-Mobile's diversity procurement increased by almost \$119 million, which represents a 22% increase since 2016. In 2018, T-Mobile was named a "Best-of-the-Best" company for diversity and inclusion by a consortium whose members include USBC, U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Women's Business Enterprise National Council, and other champions of supplier diversity. T-Mobile was one of only three honorees in the U.S. telecommunications and broadband industry and the only company based in the state of Washington to receive the honor.

In conclusion, USBC strongly believes that the merger of T-Mobile and Sprint will provide diverse entrepreneurs with many new opportunities to expand their businesses, become suppliers to the telecommunications industry, or even work for a company with a strong history of inclusion. New T-Mobile's deployment of the world's first multi band 5G network will unleash the potential of 5G for African-American businesses.

Thank you for your consideration.

In the Spirit of Success,



Ron Busby, Sr.
President/CEO
U.S. Black Chambers, Inc.