October 30, 2019

Marlene H. Dortch, Esq.
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to update the record in this proceeding to ensure that the Commission is made aware of disturbing and discriminatory behavior on the part of DISH.

During my acquisition of WISH and WNDY in Indianapolis 9/19/2019 (closing date), we requested that DISH allow us to simply continue to operate under the previous owner’s agreement, which had provided for reasonable fee payments to the previous owner for these two stations. DISH refused, and instead has demanded that I allow them to carry the stations for FREE. Despite its flat refusal to accept our request to continue paying the exact same rate for the stations as was paid to the previous owner, DISH has now publicly accused me of demanding “unprecedented” rates for the stations.

Even more troublingly, DISH has explicitly told me, documented in e-mails, that the reason it is refusing to pay now is simply that I am a small, independent broadcaster. This is entirely consistent with DISH’s past treatment of me as a small, minority-owned broadcast company. When I acquired television stations in Evansville, Indiana in 2015, DISH similarly refused to pay me the same rates it had previously paid the larger station owner who sold me the stations. Instead, two days after I became the owner of the stations, DISH removed my stations from their platform and launched a well funded public campaign against me, accusing me of “stealing” from customers, simply because I wanted to be treated fairly. Even after we were able to resolve that dispute and reach an agreement, I was still forced to take DISH to court to stop them from deliberately underpaying me. After we noted to the Court that it had already directed DISH in a previous lawsuit (filed by another small business) to stop this practice, DISH promptly settled.

Circle City Broadcasting I, LLC encourages the commission to take note of DISH Network Corporation’s (“DISH”) deliberate and documentable treatment of small businesses and minority owned businesses as it considers the proposed merger and related divestiture of Sprint’s prepaid wireless businesses (Boost Mobile, Virgin Mobile and other prepaid businesses) to DISH. As you already may know, many current Boost Mobile customer are minorities and small business operators. CCB urges the commission to ensure that their interests will not be harmed by the acquisition by DISH.

Respectfully submitted,

DuJuan A. McCoy
Owner, President & CEO

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