



**Office of the Mayor**

**Mayor Sylvester “Sly” James, Jr.**

29th Floor, City Hall  
414 East 12th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

(816) 513-3500  
Fax: (816) 513-3518

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

Re: Applications of T-Mobile US, Inc. and Sprint Corporation, WT Docket No. 18-197

Dear Secretary Dortch,

I’m writing to express my support for the pending merger between T-Mobile and Sprint. During my time as Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri, it’s become very clear to me that digital connectivity is the infrastructure of the 21st century for a very simple reason: it’s essential to a community’s strength, growth, and success. If we want our economies to provide opportunity for every family, our children to have the best education possible, and our services to be smarter and more efficient – we have to have the underlying digital infrastructure necessary to do so.

Presently, with Verizon and AT&T dominating the market, the telecommunications industry lacks the level of competition necessary to drive innovation. This is a disservice to consumers, communities, and cities like ours, because healthy competition forces companies to put consumers first, ultimately driving innovation and moving our society forward. Completion of the T-Mobile and Sprint merger would result in an equally-sized competitor and create new energy in the space.

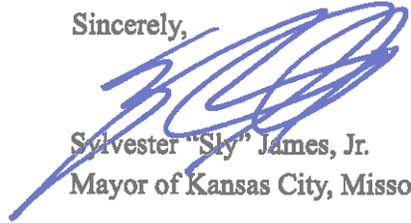
Our city is proud to partner with Sprint on many projects, including our Smart City initiative and Digital Inclusion Coalition efforts. As one of three leading partners, Sprint provides the WiFi network in our connected corridor in downtown Kansas City. The connectivity in this corridor enabled us to explore new ways to collect, analyze and use data to inform policy making. As a result, our city has transformed many of its management practices, which are now being replicated in other cities and gaining numerous accolades, such as the Edison Award in 2017 and a Bloomberg What Works City Silver designation. In a similar vein, Sprint’s 1Million Project is a cornerstone component of our Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan. The program provides free mobile devices and internet access to over 3,600 high school students in 19 high schools in the Kansas City metro.

The new T-Mobile has committed to strengthening Sprint’s partnership with Kansas City by increasing connectivity in Kansas City, and with their new 5G network continues the 1Million Project to bridge the digital divide. These efforts further demonstrate their commitment to ensuring that all consumers have

access to the digital infrastructure to live and thrive. Completion of this merger is critical to the Kansas City community and our future momentum.

I appreciate the Federal Communications Commission's consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Sly James, Jr.', written over the printed name.

Sylvester "Sly" James, Jr.  
Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri