

Before the  
**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
	)	CC Docket No. 02-6
Request for Review of Decisions of the	)	
Universal Service Administrator by	)	
	)	
St. Nicholas Tolentine School	)	File No. SLD Form 471 Nos. 829699, 858249
	)	FRNs 2254206, 2254214 (Form 471# 829699)
	)	2335367, 2335376 (Form 471# 858249)
	)	

To: Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau

**SUPPLEMENT TO REQUEST FOR REVIEW OR WAIVER**

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Dated: October 21, 2014

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## SUMMARY

St. Nicholas Tolentine School (“Nicholas” or “School”) hereby supplements its timely filed July 11, 2014 Request For Review Or Waiver (“Appeal”) of the Universal Service Administrative Company’s Schools and Libraries Division Notification Of Commitment Adjustment Letters, dated May 14, 2014 (“COMAD”). The COMADs seek recovery of \$58,594.42 in disbursed funds and rescission of \$6,218.14 in previously-approved E-Rate Program Support

Nicholas, located in the Bronx, New York, experienced the involuntary termination of the Principal who oversaw the FY 2012 E-Rate application process. The new Principal who took over officially on September 1, 2012, found no records or documentation relating to the E-Rate process for FY 2012. This unfortunate circumstance affected the School’s ability to provide all documentation regarding the FRNs, which involve a total of \$58,594.52 in disbursed E-Rate Program support, that are the subject of the Appeal, but does not indicate any intent on the part of the School to violate the E-Rate Program `rules.

USAC contends that the Form 470 description of the requested Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections was insufficiently detailed, but does not explain how, other than to point to the fact that the School received an email seeking some additional information. Tolentine respectfully submits that one such inquiry does not equate with an inadequate description under the E-Rate Program rules. Nor does the failure of the School to respond render the competitive bidding process defective. There is no indication that inquirer ever followed up and records indicate it has never filed a Service Provider Annual Certification (“SPAC”) form or been selected to receive E-Rate Program support.

Finally, even assuming the Commission finds a violation of the E-Rate Program requirements under these circumstances—where the School made good faith efforts to comply with

what the Commission itself concedes can be a complicated set of rules—the School respectfully submits that a waiver of the requirements is wholly justified. Simply put, equitable considerations, hardship, and the lack of any evidence of waste, fraud, or abuse warrant that the COMADs be rescinded.

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2335367, 2335376 (Form 471# 858249) )

**To: Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau**

**SUPPLEMENT TO REQUEST FOR REVIEW OR WAIVER**

This is a Supplement (“Supplement”) filed on behalf of St. Nicholas Tolentine School, which is part of the Catholic Archdiocese of New York school system (“Nicholas” or “School”). On July 11, 2014, the School timely filed, in accordance with Sections 54.719-54.721 of the Federal Communication Commission’s (“FCC” or “Commission”) rules, a separate Request For Review Or Waiver (“Appeal”) relating to decisions of the Universal Service Administrator (“Administrator”) to rescind and/or recover certain Schools and Libraries Support Mechanism (“E-Rate Program” or “Program”) funding provided to the School for Funding Year (“FY”) 2012.<sup>1</sup>

Therein the School reserved the right to supplement its Appeal and herein does so, further reserving the right to address any further questions that might be raised by the Commission as a result of this Supplement, including by way of further supplementation at its own discretion or at the request of the Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> A copy of the Appeal is attached as Exhibit 1.

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Nicholas, located in the Bronx, New York, experienced the involuntary termination of the Principal who oversaw the FY 2012 E-Rate application process. The new Principal who took over officially on September 1, 2012, found no records or documentation relating to the E-Rate process for FY 2012. This unfortunate circumstance affected the School's ability to provide all documentation regarding the FRNs that are the subject of the Appeal, which involve a total of \$58,594.52 in disbursed E-Rate Program support. However, it does not indicate any intent on the part of the School to violate the Program rules.

USAC contends that the Form 470 description of the requested Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections was insufficiently detailed, but does not explain how, other than to point to the fact that the School received an email seeking some additional information. Tolentine respectfully submits that one such inquiry does not equate with an inadequate description under the E-Rate Program rules. Nor does the failure of the School to respond render the competitive bidding process defective. There is no indication that inquirer ever followed up and records indicate it has never filed a Service Provider Annual Certification ("SPAC") form or been selected to receive E-Rate Program support.

Even assuming the Commission finds a technical violation of the E-Rate Program requirements under these unfortunate circumstances—where the School made good faith efforts to comply with what the Commission itself concedes can be a complicated set of rules—the School respectfully submits that a waiver of the requirements is wholly justified. Simply put, equitable considerations, hardship, and the lack of any evidence of waste, fraud, or abuse warrant that the COMADs be rescinded.

## **II. STATEMENT OF THE SCHOOL'S INTERESTS IN THE APPEAL**

The School had standing to file the Appeal and this Supplement because Section 54.719(c) of the Commission's rules provides that "[a]ny person aggrieved by an action taken by a division of the Administrator ... may seek review from the Federal Communications Commission."<sup>2</sup> In this case, the School is directly aggrieved by the Universal Service Administrative Company's ("USAC") COMADs and its continued effort to recover previously approved Program funds expended in accordance with that approval.

## **III. KEY BACKGROUND FACTS**

### **A. The School**

Nicholas is private, coed, inner-city Catholic elementary school located in the Bronx, New York. It is among a number of such schools in the Archdiocese of New York that participated in the E-Rate Program. For FY 2012, the School qualified for discounts at the 90% rate, with just shy of 94% of its students eligible for free or reduced price lunches under the National School Lunch Program. For FY 2012, the School served 275 students in pre-kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, many of whom were from families of needy residents.

### **B. FCC Form 470s**

The School timely posted an FCC Form 470 for FY 2012 on July 18, 2011, indicating the School's intent to seek E-Rate Program support for Telecommunication Services and Internet Access. The Form 470 followed the instructions and posted using generic, vendor-neutral language to describe the eligible services being sought. A second Form 470 was posted on January 15, 2012 for both Internal Connections Other Than Basic Maintenance and Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections services.<sup>3</sup> This Form 470 indicated that the School sought wireless access points and a

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<sup>2</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 54.719(c).

<sup>3</sup> The relevant Form 470s are attached as Exhibit 2.

controller for 20 rooms as Internal Connections Other Than Basic Maintenance. For Basic Maintenance of those Internal Connections the School sought hourly pricing for all access points and controllers and other pieces of equipment.

**C. The Competitive Bidding Process and FCC Form 471s**

After the posting of the Form 470s, Nicholas waited the necessary 28 days and submitted the relevant FCC Form 471s on January 25 and March 13, 2012, respectively. The former Form 471 indicated that the School had selected Verizon New York, Inc. for eligible Telecommunications Service and Cablevision Systems Corporation for eligible Internet Access, respectively.<sup>4</sup> In both cases, the selection was for non-contracted tariffed or month-to-month services.

In the case of the latter Form 471, the School selected All County Business Machines. Therefore, the latter form 471 reflected the selection of All County Business Machines Corporation for Internal Connections Other Than Basic Maintenance and Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections.

USAC approved the requested support and issued a Funding Commitment Decision Letters on July 10, 2012 and October 23, 2012, respectively.<sup>5</sup>

**D. USAC's 2014 Commitment Adjustment Letters**

On May 14, 2014, after a series of USAC inquiries starting in April 2013, USAC issued the COMADs.<sup>6</sup> The substance of the Funding Commitment Adjustment Explanation for each FRN included the following:

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<sup>4</sup> Because of the complexity of the E-Rate Program application process and in a good faith effort to ensure compliance with the Commission's rules, the School was assisted by a duly-authorized E-Rate consultant ERateProgram, LLC

<sup>5</sup> The relevant Form 471s and FCDLs are attached as Exhibit 3.

<sup>6</sup> Copies of the COMADs are included in Exhibit 1. The language regarding recovery of funds was not included in the COMAD relating to FRN 2258197 and the language in FRN 2350065 included the specific amount of \$15,884.96.

“After multiple requests for documentation, it has been determined that this funding commitment must be rescinded in full. The applicant failed to produce at the request of the Administrator the following documentation pertaining to its competitive bidding process: copies of bids received and documentation to support the vendor evaluation and selection process. FCC rules require schools and libraries to retain all documents related to the application for, receipt, and delivery of discounted telecommunications and other supported services for at least five years after the last day of service delivered in a particular Funding Year and to produce such records upon a request of an auditor or other authorized representative. FCC rules further provide that a non-compliance with the FCCs record keeping and auditing rules by failure to retain records or to make available required documentation is a rule violation that warrants recovery of any disbursed funds for the time period for which the information/documentation is being sought. Since you failed to produce the above specified documentation upon request of an authorized representative, your compliance with the competitive bidding requirements could not be determined. As a result your funding commitment has been rescinded in full and USAC will seek recovery of any improperly disbursed funds from the applicant.”

The COMAD for FRN 2336367 also included the following additional Explanation:

“Additionally USAC received information showing that a potential bidder contacted you within the 28 day bidding window seeking information about your Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections (BMIC) requirements. Documentation provided during review, indicates you did not respond to the potential bidder with the information sought. It has been determined that the maintenance services as requested on FCC Form 470 #3099940000999500 contains maintenance service descriptions which are insufficiently detailed to allow prospective bidders to provide a bid responsive to the maintenance services that were subsequently requested by the school in FRN 2335367. Since you did not respond with the information sought by the service provider and since the service provider would not have been able to provide a responsive bid without the additional information, a fair and open competition bidding process was inhibited. Since you posted FCC Form 470 #309940000999500, which included a request for BMIC, you are obligated to receive and assess all bids and provide to potential service providers with requested information so that they may provide responsive bids. The competitive bidding process is not fair and open, as required by FCC Rules, when you discourage potential bidders from submitting a response to the services requested on the FCC Form 470. Therefore, the applicant has violated the competitive bidding program rules and your funding commitment will be rescinded in full. USAC will seek recovery of any disbursed funds from the applicant.”

Again, the COMADs seek recovery of \$58,594.42 in disbursed funds and rescission of \$6,218.14 in previously-approved E-Rate Program Support.

#### IV. STANDARD OF REVIEW

USAC's authority to administer the E-Rate Program is limited to implementing and applying the *Commission's rules and the Commission's interpretations of those rules* as found in Commission decisions and orders.<sup>7</sup>

USAC is not empowered to make policy, interpret any unclear provisions of the governing statute or the rules promulgated by the Commission,<sup>8</sup> or create the equivalent of new guidelines.<sup>9</sup> USAC is responsible for "administering the universal support mechanisms in an efficient, effective, and competitively neutral manner."<sup>10</sup> In connection with efforts to recover previously approved E-Rate support, USAC has the burden of acting in a timely manner to recover and demonstrating that there has been a statutory or substantive rule violation.<sup>11</sup> Finally, the Commission's review of the COMAD is *de novo*, and the agency is not bound by any findings or conclusions of USAC.<sup>12</sup>

#### V. ARGUMENT

##### A. The Form 470 Description and Failure To Respond To A Single Email Do Not Justify A Finding Of A Competitive Bidding Violation

USAC asserts that the COMAD for FRN 2335367 is justified in part because the descriptions of the Basic Maintenance of Internal Connections being sought by the School are "insufficiently detailed to allow prospective bidders to provide a [responsive] bid." The COMAD does not explain the insufficiency. The Form 470 reflected that there would be a wireless access

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<sup>7</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 54.702(c).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Changes to the Board of Directors of the Nat'l Exchange Carrier Ass'n, Inc.*, Third Report and Order, 13 FCC Rcd 25058, 25066-67, ¶¶15-16 (1998).

<sup>10</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 54.701(a).

<sup>11</sup> *See In the Matter of Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism*, Fifth Report and Order and Order, 19 FCC Rcd 15808, 15813 and 15819, ¶¶15, 32(2004) ("*Fifth Report and Order*").

<sup>12</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 54.723.

point and controller for 20 classrooms and sought basic maintenance for all access points and controllers. Moreover, the Form 470 sought an “hourly pricing rate” not an overall contract price. In any case, the School respectfully submits that the description was sufficiently complete to allow bidders to specify their hourly rate for the categories of maintenance services specified.

USAC’s conclusion that the description was insufficient was apparently tied to an email message from Mr. Assad Gilani on behalf of SaaS Networks, Inc. who asked for more information. But one inquiry cannot equate to a general conclusion that the Form 470 description is wanting. At least one other bidder was able to submit a bid based on the Form 470 and the support was approved and disbursed by USAC. Further, Mr. Gilani apparently gathered some additional information himself from a prior year FCC Form 471.<sup>13</sup>

The School concedes that it was unable to produce an email response to Mr. Gilani. There is no indication that Mr. Gilani made further inquiry and his company ultimately did not inquire further or submit a bid.<sup>14</sup> Further, there is no evidence here of any intentional or wilfull effort to favor one or more bidders or to ignore or exclude Mr. Gilani and SaaS, and therefore truncate competition. The apparent inadvertent failure of a busy elementary school Principal to respond to Mr. Gilani via email, if that is in fact what occurred here, should not be turned into a “gotcha” violation that requires a 90% school to return needed E-Rate support money. This is especially the case when the funds have been spent properly for Priority 2 Internal Connections (and related Basic Maintenance services) that the Commission has now concluded are “crucial to improving

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<sup>13</sup> See Exhibit 4.

<sup>14</sup> Recent consultation of the USAC database indicates that SaaS has a SPIN, but there is no indication that it has ever filed a SPAC form. Annual submission of a SPAC is necessary for the service provider to be able to be paid on invoices submitted to USAC. See <http://www.e-ratecentral.com/formsRack/sp/Form473.asp> Further, based on consultation using SaaS’s SPIN with a database maintained by E-Rate Central, SaaS has never been selected to receive any E-Rate Program support, before or since FY 2012. See Exhibit 5.

educational experiences and expanding opportunities for all our nation's students, teachers, parents and communities.”<sup>15</sup> This is the kind of “strict liability” under the competitive bidding rules that the Commission appropriately recently questioned.<sup>16</sup>

Mr. Gilani sent one email (which may or may not have been answered) and then apparently failed to make any further inquiry or showing of interest.<sup>17</sup> Tolentine respectfully submits that under those circumstances a finding of a violation based on this scenario is not warranted and the relevant COMAD is unjustified on this basis.

**B. A Waiver Is Justified**

Tolentine respectfully submits that if the Commission concludes that there has been a violation of the E-Rate Program document retention and competitive bidding rules, a waiver of the rules is wholly justified under the special circumstances here.

The Commission's rules allow waiver of a Commission rule “for good cause shown.”<sup>18</sup> The Commission has extended this authority to waivers of USAC rules. For example, in the *Bishop Perry Order*, the Commission noted that it “has vested in USAC the responsibility of administering the

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<sup>15</sup> *In the Matter of Modernizing the E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 14-99, released July 23, 2014, ¶1 (“*E-Rate Modernization Order*”).

<sup>16</sup> “At the same time, as our rules have expanded, the risk to applicants of having USAC or the Commission seek full reimbursement of previously disbursed funds based on a rule or program violation has also grown, and sometimes full reimbursement is not commensurate with the violation incurred.” *In the Matter of Modernizing the E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries*, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 28 FCC Rcd 11304, 11372, ¶253 (2013) (“*Modernization NPRM*”).

<sup>17</sup> Mr. Gilani sent similar email messages to a number of other schools that are the subject of similar COMADs because of an inability to demonstrate a response to his inquiries. Again, in no case did he submit a bid. Moreover, see footnote 14, *supra*.

<sup>18</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 1.3.

application process for the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism.”<sup>19</sup> Pursuant to that authority, USAC developed procedures relating to the application and appeals process.<sup>20</sup> Thus, in *Bishop Perry*, the Commission applied the 47 C.F.R. § 1.3 waiver rule to allow a limited waiver of USAC procedures.<sup>21</sup> The Commission has established the following guidance for determining whether waiver is appropriate:

A rule may be waived where the particular facts make strict compliance inconsistent with the public interest. In addition, the Commission may take into account considerations of hardship, equity, or more effective implementation of overall policy on an individual basis. In sum, waiver is appropriate if special circumstances warrant a deviation from the general rule, and such deviation would better serve the public interest than strict adherence to the general rule.<sup>22</sup>

The School respectfully submits that the outcome of the vendor selection process here was “consistent with the policy goals underlying the Commission’s competitive bidding rules” and therefore a waiver is appropriate.<sup>23</sup>

Strict compliance with the Commission’s rules in the special circumstances involving the School would not be in the public interest. In *Bishop Perry*, the FCC granted 196 appeals of decisions denying funding due to “clerical or ministerial errors in the application.”<sup>24</sup> In that case, the FCC found good cause to waive the minimum processing standards established by USAC, finding that

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<sup>19</sup> *Request for Review of the Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by Bishop Perry Middle School, et al.*, Order, 21 FCC Rcd 5316, ¶4 (2006) (“*Bishop Perry Order*”).

<sup>20</sup> The *Bishop Perry Order* dealt with USAC application procedures known as “minimum processing standards.” *Id.*

<sup>21</sup> *Id.*

<sup>22</sup> *Requests for Review of A Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by Richmond County School District*, 21 FCC Rcd 6570, 6572, ¶5 (Wireline Compet. Bur. 2006) (internal references omitted) (citing *Northeast Cellular Tel. Co. v. FCC*, 897 F.2d 1164, 1166 (D.C. Cir. 1990) and *WAIT Radio v. FCC*, 418 F.2d 1153, 1157 (D.C. Cir. 1969), *aff’d*, 459 F.2d 1203 (D.C. Cir. 1972)).

<sup>23</sup> *Requests for Review of Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by Euclid City School District, Euclid, OH, et al.*, Order, 27 FCC Rcd 14169, 14170, ¶2 (Telecom. Access Pol. Div. 2012).

<sup>24</sup> *Bishop Perry Order*, ¶1.

“rigid compliance with the application procedures does not further the purposes of section 254(h) or serve the public interest.”<sup>25</sup> Many of the appeals in *Bishop Perry* involved staff mistakes or mistakes made as a result of staff not being available.<sup>26</sup> The Commission granted the waivers for good cause, noting that:

[T]he primary jobs of most of the people filling out these forms include school administrators, technology coordinators and teachers, as opposed to positions dedicated to pursuing federal grants, especially in small school districts. Even when a school official has learned how to correctly navigate the application process, unexpected illnesses or other family emergencies can result in the only official who knows the process being unavailable to complete the application on time. Given that the violation at issue is procedural, not substantive, we find that the complete rejection of each of these applications is not warranted. Notably, at this time, there is no evidence of waste, fraud or abuse, misuse of funds, or a failure to adhere to core program requirements. Furthermore, we find that denial of funding in these cases would inflict undue hardship on the applicants.<sup>27</sup>

The Commission has recently formally recognized that the existing E-rate system is complex and burdensome, requiring applicants to spend many hours focusing on compliance with its various requirements.<sup>28</sup> Indeed, it is so complicated as to be a deterrent to particularly smaller schools even applying.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> *Id.*, ¶11. The Commission departed from prior Commission precedent, noting that the departure was, “warranted and in the public interest.” *Id.*, ¶9. The Commission noted that many of the rules at issue were procedural, and that a waiver is consistent with the purposes of Section 254, which directs the Commission to “enhance ... access to advanced telecommunications and information services for all public and non-profit elementary and secondary school classrooms, health care providers and libraries.” *Id.*

<sup>26</sup> *Id.*, ¶13.

<sup>27</sup> *Id.*, ¶14.

<sup>28</sup> *Modernization NPRM*, ¶45.

<sup>29</sup> *Id.*, 11474 (Statement of Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel) and 11475 (Statement of Commissioner Ajit Pai).

Where the outcome of the competitive bidding process provided the applicant with the services that met their needs in a way that was ultimately likely to impose the least burden on the federal universal service fund, a waiver is appropriate.<sup>30</sup>

There is absolutely no evidence here of any activity by the School intended to defraud or abuse the E-Rate Program.<sup>31</sup> Nor is there any evidence of any waste, fraud, or abuse, or misuse of funds.<sup>32</sup> The inability of the School to produce evidence of a response to Mr. Gilani does not reflect an effort to affirmatively discourage bidders.<sup>33</sup>

Furthermore, the imposition of a requirement to reimburse the requested funds under these circumstances many months after they were originally approved and expended would impose an undue hardship on the School.<sup>34</sup> There is no evidence that the School acted in bad faith.<sup>35</sup> Requiring

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<sup>30</sup> *Requests for Review of Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Central Islip Union Free School District*, Order, 29 FCC Rcd 2715, 2716, ¶1 n.7 (Telecom. Access Pol. Div. 2014).

<sup>31</sup> See *Request for Review of the Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by New Haven Free Public Library*, Order, 23 FCC Rcd 15446, 15449, ¶7 (Telecom. Access Pol. Div. 2008); *Request for Review of the Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by the District of Columbia Public Schools*, Order, 23 FCC Rcd 15585, 15588, ¶5 (Telecom. Access Pol. Div. 2008); *Request for Review of the Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by Tekoa Academy of Accelerated Studies*, Order, 23 FCC Rcd 15456, 15458-59, ¶6 (Telecom Access Pol. Div. 2008).

<sup>32</sup> See *Requests for Review of Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Broaddus Independent School District et al.*, Order, 23 FCC Rcd 15547, 15551-52, ¶12 (Telecom. Access Pol. Div. 2008).

<sup>33</sup> See generally *Request for Review of Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Consorcio de Escuelas y Bibliotecas de Puerto Rico*, Order, 28 FCC Rcd 64, 69, ¶13 (Telecom. Access Pol. Div. 2013) (no general deterrence of bidders from use of right of first refusal). Compare *Requests for review of Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator by Conestoga Valley School District*, Order, 27 FCC Rcd 13167 (Telecom. Access Pol. Div. 2012).

<sup>34</sup> See *Request for Review of a Decision by the Universal Service Administrator by Radford City Schools*, Order, 23 FCC Rcd 15451, 15453, ¶4 (Telecom. Access Pol. Div. 2008); *Request for Review of a Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by Grand Rapids Public Schools*, Order, 23 FCC Rcd 15413, 15416, ¶6 (Telecom. Access Pol. Div. 2008).

<sup>35</sup> See *Request for Waiver of the Decision by the Universal Service Administrator by Great Rivers Education Cooperative, Forrest City, Arkansas*, Order, 21 FCC Rcd 14115, 14119, ¶9 (Wireline Compet. Bur. 2006).

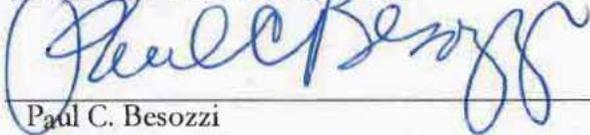
repayment would not further the purpose of preserving and advancing access to universal service support for schools and libraries.<sup>36</sup> Consequently, it would be inequitable to uphold the COMAD.<sup>37</sup> Thus, a waiver is appropriate under these special circumstances.

**VI. CONCLUSION AND REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

For the reasons set forth above, Tolentine respectfully requests that the Commission grant the Appeal and direct USAC to overturn its prior decisions and rescind the COMADS for the reasons set forth herein and because a waiver of the rules is fully justified.

There is no evidence that the School made other than good faith efforts to comply with what the Commission itself concedes can be a complicated set of rules. Therefore, a waiver of the requirements is wholly justified. Simply put, equitable considerations, hardship, and the lack of any evidence of waste, fraud, or abuse warrant that the relevant COMADs be rescinded.

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Dated: October 21, 2014

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<sup>36</sup> See *Request for Review of a Decision by the Universal Service Administrator by Adams County School District 14*, Order, 22 FCC Rcd 6019, 6022, ¶8 (2007).

<sup>37</sup> See *Request for Waiver and Review of a Decision of the Universal Service Administrator by Approach Learning and Assessment Center, Santa Ana, CA, Schools and Libraries Universal Service Support Mechanism*, Order, 23 FCC Rcd 15510, 15513, ¶8 (Telecom. Access Pol. Div. 2008).

DECLARATION

I, Dr. Timothy J. McNiff, am the Superintendent of Schools for the Archdiocese of New York, a position that I have occupied since 2008. As Superintendent I am generally familiar with the E-Rate Program and the participation of the schools of the Archdiocese in that Program. I am further aware that on May 14, 2014, the Administrator of the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC") issued Notification of Commitment Adjustment Letters to 6 current and 3 former schools of the Archdiocese in connection with certain E-Rate Program support for Funding Year 2012. I am also aware that on July 11, 2014 each of those schools appealed, as a matter of right, the USAC decisions to the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC").

The foregoing Supplement To Request For Review Or Waiver was prepared pursuant to my ultimate direction, supervision and control. I declare under penalty of perjury that the factual statements therein relating to the participation of the particular Archdiocesan School that is the subject of the Supplement in the E-Rate Program for Funding Year 2012 are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Timothy J. McNiff

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Paul C. Besozzi, certify on this 21st day of October, 2014, a copy of the foregoing "Supplement To Request For Review Or Waiver" has been served via electronic mail or first class mail, postage pre-paid, to the following:

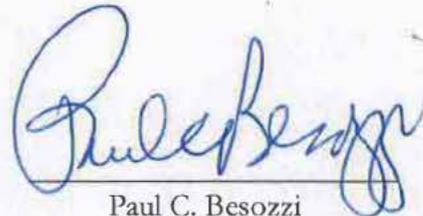
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