

January 13, 2015

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20054

Via Electronic Filing

**Re: GN Docket No. 14-28, *Protecting and Promoting the Open Internet*
GN Docket No. 10-127, *Framework for Broadband Internet Service***

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On Friday, January 9, 2015, representatives from several public interest, social justice, and activism organizations met with Commissioner Mignon Clyburn and her staff to discuss matters in the above captioned dockets.

The public interest representatives in attendance were: Malkia Cyril, Center for Media Justice; Dante Berry, for Million Hoodies Movement for Justice and Center for Media Justice; Dallas Donnell, ColorofChange.org; Opal Tometi¹, Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI); Sala Cyril, Malcolm X Grassroots Movement; Enoch Miller, Urbana Champaign Independent Media Center; Larry Fellows III; Darnell Moore, Black Lives Matter; and Joseph Torres and Lauren Wilson, Free Press.

Attending from the Commission along with Commissioner Clyburn were Adonis Hoffman, Chief of Staff and Senior Legal Advisor for Media issues; Rebekah Goodheart, Legal Advisor for Wireline issues; Louis Peraertz, Legal Advisor for Wireless, International and Public Safety issues; and legal fellows Carter McMillan and Yosef Getachew.

During the meeting, the public interest representatives expressed their unequivocal support for sound Open Internet rules grounded in Title II of the Communications Act. In their individual presentations, parties described the impact an open Internet has had on their work and evolution as activists. CMJ and ColorofChange.org also distributed handouts, attached hereto, that detailed the significance of the Open Internet as it relates to social justice work.

Several representatives spoke to how the open Internet has aided their efforts to challenge anti-black media bias and call attention to police brutality. Specifically, in 2011, Mr. Miller was able to expose police abuse in Champaign, Illinois by posting to YouTube a video of officers using excessive force. Additionally, Million Hoodies Movement for Justice created what became one the fastest growing petition in the history of the Internet to bring attention to the murder of Trayvon Martin.² Then, in the wake of Michael Brown's murder in Missouri, Black Lives Matter

¹ Tometi is also a co-founder of Black Lives Matter.

² See Zoe Fox, "Trayvon Martin Petition Is Fastest-Growing in Change.org History," *Mashable*, March 12, 2007.

organized freedom rides and brought more than 500 people from around the U.S. and Canada to Ferguson. Similarly, Malcolm X Grassroots Movement has created a campaign, Cop Watch, through which individuals may upload videos of instances of police brutality they have captured, thereby documenting the breadth and scope of said violence. A ColorofChange.org project, Killed By Cops, chronicles police killings nationwide and tells the stories of those who lost their lives at the hands of law enforcement officials.³ In doing so, the group hopes to encourage the federal government to remedy the current deficiency in data on civilian deaths involving the police. All of these actions were made possible by an Internet that is open, accessible, and free from corporate control.

Several parties urged the Commission to be mindful of not only the positive economic impact of net neutrality rules, but of the human and cultural impact of the policy as well. For instance, Mr. Fellows pointed out that without an open Internet, no one outside of Ferguson would know Michael Brown's name. Instead, millions of people around the world have rallied around his family and have built an online community in his memory. Mr. Fellows has seen the power of the open Internet. He has seen ordinary people transform into activists, organizers, and fundraisers online. Likewise, BAJI harnessed the power of the Internet to organize dozens of allies and send thousands of petitions to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in an effort to extend relief to a long list of Haitian families awaiting visas. After years of stagnation, the groups were able to reap results after a few months of online action and in October 2014, DHS announced the Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program, which will expedite visas for 5,000 individuals.⁴ As these young leaders put it, what is at stake in this proceeding is more than just an Internet free from discrimination, but also a civil society free from discrimination and a government that is accountable to it.

Finally, Free Press briefly addressed the substance of forbearance after reclassification. We reiterated that Sections 201, 202 and 208 form the bedrock of Title II and provide sufficient authority for strong, enforceable open Internet rules. Free Press also noted its position that the Commission should not forbear from and therefore retain all or part of the following remaining provisions of the Act: Sections 222, 251, 255 and 256. What's more, Free Press suggested that the Commission consider retaining Section 214's discontinuance provisions and noted that Section 254 provides a sound basis for extending the Universal Service Fund to support broadband for rural and low-income communities.

We file this notice pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned should you have any questions regarding this submission.

³ See Killed By Cops, <http://www.killedbycops.org> (last visited Jan. 13, 2015).

⁴ See Blackalliance.org, "Black Alliance for Justice Immigration Haitian-Americans Receive Long Awaited Visa Program to Reunite Family Members After 5 Years of National Advocacy," (Oct. 21, 2014).

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/Lauren M. Wilson

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Enclosures

cc: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Rebekah Goodheart
Adonis Hoffman
Louis Peraertz