

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 groups met with staff from Chairman Tom Wheeler's office and the Office of General Counsel 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 Chairman's office were Gigi B. Sohn, Special Counsel for External Affairs; Philip Verveer, Senior Counselor; Daniel Alvarez, Legal Advisor for Wireline, Public Safety, and Homeland Security issues, and Sagar Doshi, Special Assistant. Attending from the Office of General Counsel was Michele Ellison, Deputy General Counsel.

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 of the fastest growing petitions 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

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.

Matter 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 Brown's 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.

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.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Lauren M. Wilson

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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).

Enclosures

cc: Gigi B. Sohn
Philip Verveer
Daniel Alvarez
Michele Ellison
Sagar Doshi