

The African American Chamber of Commerce Central Florida

WHEREAS, the 2010 census shows Central Florida – comprising of Brevard, Lake, Orange, Osceola, Polk, Seminole and Volusia Counties – has a population of 12 percent African Americans, and the last Census Survey of Business Owners notes 9 percent of all Florida businesses are African American-owned; and

WHEREAS, nearly 95 percent of African American-owned businesses nationwide are made up of sole proprietors without paid employees, meaning these companies are operated by single entrepreneurs with little to no support staff; and

WHEREAS, sole proprietorships are burdened by unlimited personal liability, comparative difficulty raising funds, and carry a heavy personal burden for success, requiring entrepreneurs to find cost savings and business advice from available resources like local chambers of commerce; and

WHEREAS, the cost of doing business in the United States must factor in the expense of broadband across nearly all industry areas, with the adoption rates of broadband among small businesses jumping to 90 percent as of 2010; and

WHEREAS, broadband has become a vital tool for all entrepreneurs to reach customers and vendors and build effective and competitive companies; and

WHEREAS, entrepreneurs value a competitive market and want to be able to choose the best package for their businesses, with minority-owned businesses often seeking to subscribe to a cable broadband company dedicated to diversity in its programming and corporate culture.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CENTRAL FLORIDA:

- I. Supports the merger of Charter Communications, Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks into New Charter, a cable broadband company that would commit to investing in our nation's broadband infrastructure in order to provide innovative services and inject competition into the market, including investing \$2.5 billion into commercial networks and building out one million residential line extensions; and
- II. Supports New Charter's commitments to diversity and inclusion that include encouraging a diverse workforce, engaging with minority, women, veteran and disabled-owned businesses, offering diverse programming including African American, Hispanic and Asian channels and continuing Bright House's commendable low-income program; and
- III. Requests the Federal Communications Commission approves the merger so that African American-owned Central Florida businesses can access New Charter's high-quality, affordable products and benefit from its substantial investment in innovation and broadband infrastructure.