Ex Parte Notice Re Charter/Time Warner/Bright House:
National Diversity Coalition/National Asian American Coalition Meetings
with Three Commissioners Supporting Charter’s Proposed Acquisition
of Time Warner and Bright House

On March 1st and 3rd, members of the National Diversity Coalition (NDC) met for approximately half hour each with FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai, FCC Counselor to Chairman Wheeler Gigi Sohn, and on March 3rd with FCC Commissioner Mike O’Reilly. The discussions related to why our nation’s minority communities and our nation’s underserved communities, including 70% of Americans who live from paycheck to paycheck, could be benefited by the proposed Charter acquisition of Time Warner and Bright House.

Other FCC staff members present at these meetings included Eric Feigenbaum, Director of Outreach & Strategy; Charles Eberle, Attorney Advisor; and Matthew Berry, Chief of Staff to Commissioner Pai.

Representing the NDC and NAAC at these three meetings were Faith Bautista, CEO of NAAC and President of NDC, Robert Gnaizda, General Counsel for both of these organizations and the following minority community leaders, representing our nation’s 40,000 Latino evangelical churches, our nation’s 5,000 African Methodist Episcopal churches, our nation’s U.S. Black Chamber of Commerce, many of our nation’s Latino chambers of commerce, as well as other community groups. This included Aubry Stone, the Chair of U.S. Black Chambers of Commerce, Chair & Executive Director of the California Black Chamber of Commerce; Reverend Charles Dorsey on behalf of Reverend Mark Whitlock, the Chair of Corporate Partnerships of AME Churches and senior pastor of Christ Our Redeemer Church; Pastor Jack Miranda representing members of national Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference and Vice Chair of Orange County of Interdenominational Ecumenical Council; Everett Bell, Chair of Greater Watts Economic Development Corporation; Pastor Lee de Leon of Templo Calvario and its 3500 member congregation; Frank Washington, CEO of Crossings TV; Gilbert Vasquez, the Chair of Los Angeles Latino Chamber of Commerce on behalf of 250,000 Latino business; Pastor Jin Sung, Executive Director of OASIS Center International; George McDaniel and Alex Anderson, Co-Chairs of African Americans for Economic Justice; Richard Ramos, CEO of Latino Coalition for Community Leadership; Regina Grant Peterson, Executive Director of Advantage CDC; Connie Kizzie Gillett and Saundra Davis on behalf of Impact Southern California CDC; Carina Oriel, intern at National Diversity Coalition; Matthew Gnaizda, Co-Founder of Archimedes Institute (please note some of the members were only present for one or two of the meetings).

We discussed the overall nature of why such a broad group of faith based, minority business associations and minority community groups supported the merger including the terms of the settlement agreement with Charter. This included the relatively poor record of Time Warner on diverse programming and Charter’s far stronger commitment to diversity of programming that would among other matters, avoid the pitfalls demonstrated at the recent Oscars in terms of lack of diversity. We also discussed the importance of employment and contract diversity
including Board of Directors that were incorporated in our settlement and the belief that Charter would go well beyond the specific terms of the agreement to ensure that the spirit of the agreement was effectuated. This included regular meetings with the most senior staff and the CEO, specific concerns for our nation’s 40 million Californians and recognition of the diversity work accomplished by the California Public Utility Commission in the context of other regulated telecommunications and energy companies.

We also discussed the importance of low-cost and affordable broadband for everyone, particularly low- to moderate-income families and the specific provisions in the settlement that would move us toward this national goal since broadband is a necessity and no longer merely an important option.

In addition, we discussed a merger in the context of Comcast’s failed merger and its reluctance to enthusiastically embrace the diversity of America and the needs of the 70% of Americans who live from paycheck to paycheck.

Lastly, we discussed what we believe could be the failure of the Commission to prepare for the radical changes likely in the next five to ten years for both the cable industry and the far broader internet/broadband industry. For example, we discussed the possibility that few if any of the present key cable players would be significant players in five to ten years since they could easily be gobbled up by or outdistanced and replaced by high tech companies such as Google, Apple, and Facebook (just as Google is likely to drastically alter auto market through driverless cars within the next five to ten years).

This notice has been filed within two business days of March 3 FCC meeting.

Most respectfully,

/s/ Robert Gnaizda
General Counsel, National Diversity Coalition