CITY OF APOPKA FLORIDA

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July 29, 2011

Hon. Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Hon. Michael Copps, Commissioner
Hon. Robert McDowell, Commissioner
Hon. Meredith Attwell Baker, Commissioner
Hon. Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: AT &T – T-Mobile Merger, WT Docket No. 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

In my time in office as a commissioner for the city of Apopka, FL, I have had the opportunity to share in the joys of my constituents, but also serve as a shoulder to cry on for many more. We have felt the repercussions of the nation's recession and many in our community, especially African Americans, are still struggling to reclaim the lives they once called their own.

One of the most difficult aspects of the past couple of years has been watching people I've come to know lose their jobs, their homes, and very livelihood. We in Central Florida, along with others around the nation, have been searching for answers to this problem. A main focal point of President Obama's agenda has been to enhance American competitiveness and economic growth by increasing the availability of broadband to more communities. Today we are fortunate to have two companies, AT&T and T-Mobile, USA, prepared to do just that.

The proposed merger, if approved, promises to make broadband available to more than 97 percent of the country and provide access to 55 million more Americans. With African Americans as much as 40 percent more likely to rely on mobile devices to access the Internet than their non-minority counterparts, this could play a huge role in the renaissance of African American communities across the country.

It is my belief that the merger of AT&T and T-Mobile has the ability to be almost as much a game changer in American history as Internet itself. If approved, this merger will give America its greatest hope to date of universal broadband service and a major push in closing the digital divide.

I look forward to the FCC's approval of the acquisition.

Respectfully,

Commissioner Billie Dean
City of Apopka, FL