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July 17, 2012

**Ex Parte via Electronic Filing**

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Implementation of Sections 716 and 717 of the Communications Act of 1934, as Enacted by the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010, CG Dkt. 10-213; Amendments to the Commission's Rules Implementing Sections 255 and 251(a)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as Enacted by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, WT Dkt. 96-98; In the Matter of Accessible Mobile Phone Options for People Who Are Blind, Deaf-Blind, or Have Low Vision, CG Dkt. 10-145*

*Closed Captioning of Internet Protocol-Delivered Video Programming: Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010, MB Dkt. 11-154*

*In the Matter of Structure and Practices of the Video Relay Service Program, CG Dkt. 10-51*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On July 13, 2012, Google Inc., represented by Adrienne Biddings and Naomi Black (by telephone) of Google, and the undersigned, met with Karen Strauss, Deputy Chief, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau ("CGB") and Eliot Greenwald, Rosaline Crawford, and John Herzog of the CGB Disability Rights Office.

Consistent with its Comments on the *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in CG Dkts. 10-213 *et al.*, filed February 13, 2012, Google urged that with respect to the term "interoperable video conferencing service" as used in the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010, the Commission should define interoperability in a manner that promotes the use of open, publicly available application program interfaces ("APIs") in developing and using video conferencing technology.

Google explained that in connection with Hangouts, the web-based multi-user video chat application available through Google+, it recently introduced Hangout Captions, an application

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*Ex Parte* Filing of Google Inc.

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that integrates live transcription services directly into a Google+ Hangout, improving accessibility for participants who are deaf or hard of hearing. Hangout Captions currently allows a user either to connect live text from a professional transcriptionist to the user's Hangout, or to type directly into a text box to transcribe a Hangout for other participants. Google demonstrated Hangout Captions at the 51<sup>st</sup> Biennial National Association of the Deaf Conference held earlier this month.

Google also stated that it has published an open, publicly available API for Hangouts. Google noted that CSDVRS, LLC, a provider of video relay service ("VRS") solutions, has developed an application based on Google's open API that enables integration of VRS and video remote interpreting on top of Google+ Hangouts, and that CSDVRS provided a proof of concept demonstration of its app at the NAD Conference. Google observed that because the Hangouts API is open, any developer is free to combine its expertise and innovation and continue to improve the user experience within Hangouts. Open, published APIs thus promote accessibility by allowing innovators to build on shared on common infrastructure and establish bridges between technologies.

Pursuant to the Commission's rules, this notice is being filed in the above-referenced dockets for inclusion in the public record. Please contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "E. Ashton Johnston".

E. Ashton Johnston  
*Counsel for Google Inc.*

cc: Karen Strauss (by electronic mail)  
Eliot Greenwald (by electronic mail)  
Rosaline Crawford (by electronic mail)  
John Herzog (by electronic mail)