



**Minority Media &
Telecom Council**

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November 29, 2013

Ms. Marlene Dortch, Esq.
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

*Please accept this version as a corrected revision to an earlier submitted document.

RE: Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication, IB Docket No. 11-133 (Foreign Ownership); WC Docket No. 12-375; PS Docket No. 12-94; WC Docket No. 10-90; WT Docket No. 10-208; Recommendations of the Independent Panel Reviewing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Communications Networks (EB Docket 06-119)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This reports on a meeting held on November 27, 2013 with FCC Commissioner Michael O’Rielly and Amy Bender, Acting Legal Advisor for Wireline Issues. Representatives from the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council (“MMTC”) were David Honig, President, Nicol Turner-Lee, Vice President and Chief Policy and Research Officer, and Hon. Cliff Stearns, Co-Chair of MMTC’s New Internet and Telecom Task Force, were also present at the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce MMTC’s mission, goals and activities to newly installed FCC Commissioner O’Rielly and his team.

During the meeting the following points were discussed:

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- David Honig thanked Commissioner O’Rielly for his remarks made at his first FCC Open Meeting on November 14, 2013, suggesting that the Commission “...do even more,” on the issue of foreign ownership.¹ The Commissioner appreciated Mr. Honig’s feedback and shared his intent on meeting the FCC’s congressional mandates as part of his tenure.
- David Honig and Nicol Turner-Lee shared MMTC’s mission and programs such as its white papers and fellowship programs that have trained over 53 telecom lawyers focused on public interest in the last few years. MMTC also discussed its Media and Telecom Brokerage that has helped minority broadcasters and innovators secure relationships, capital and broadcast/network stations over the years. The Commissioner was then invited to participate as part of the FCC Commissioners Breakfast at MMTC’s upcoming *Broadband and Social Justice Conference* that is scheduled for January 15-16, 2013.
- Commissioner O’Rielly and MMTC discussed the potential impact of the Spectrum Act² on the nation overall and for people in color in particular. MMTC asked the Commissioner to consider diversity goals in the incentive auctions and strategies for increasing minority awareness and engagement on this issue.
- MMTC discussed issues that the FCC has addressed in the last year, including relaxing foreign ownership rules³, unfair license suspension for minority broadcasters⁴, prison pay phone rates⁵, and the inclusion of an additional question on the participation of

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¹ OPEN COMMISSION MEETING | FCC.GOV, <http://www.fcc.gov/events/open-commission-meeting-november-2013> (last visited Nov 30, 2013)

² See FCC Order In the Matter of Implementing Public Safety Broadband Provisions of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, PS Docket No. 12-94 *et al.* (Released July 31, 2012)

³ See Letter from MMTC, to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, Notice of Ex Parte, IB Docket No. 11-133 *et al.* (filed June 6, 2013); Letter from MMTC, to Marlene H. Dortch, FCC Notice of Ex Parte, IB Docket No. 11-133 *et al.* (filed May 2, 2013); Letter from Minority Media and Telecommunications Council to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, Notice of Ex Parte, IB Docket No. 11-133 *et al.* (filed February 20, 2013); Letter from Minority Media and Telecommunications Council to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, Notice of Ex Parte, IB Docket No. 11-133 *et al.* (filed February 5, 2013); Letter from Minority Media and Telecommunications Council to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, Notice of Ex Parte, IB Docket No. 11-133 *et al.* (filed January 24, 2013)

⁴ See *e.g.* Reply Comments on Media Bureau Invites Comments on Study Submitted by the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council in 2010 Quadrennial Review of Broadcast Ownership Rules, Public Notice, 2013 FCC LEXIS 2506 (“Public Notice”)

⁵ See Comments of the *Minority Media and Telecommunications Council on Rates for Interstate Inmate Calling Services*, WC Docket No. 12-375 (filed March 25, 2013)

minority- and women-owned businesses as part of the FCC's wireless competition report⁶.

- MMTC also shared that the organization has several issues pending with the FCC that include its Hurricane Katrina petition to ensure that national emergency broadcasting plans serve multilingual populations.⁷ MMTC also shared its recent support for the Petition for Reconsideration filed in support of Adak Eagle Enterprises and Windy City Cellular, LLC⁸ – two minority-owned companies that are at risk of closure due to the recent cuts in USF/ICC transformation funds. MMTC promised to get the Commissioner the full list of its pending issues/filings.
- MMTC also shared its enthusiasm for Chairman Tom Wheeler's focus on FCC process reform⁹ and intends to offer comments through its New Internet and Telecom Task Force, co-chaired by former U.S. Congressmen Cliff Stearns and Ed Towns.

Respectfully submitted,



David Honig
President, MMTC

⁶ See FCC Order In the Matter of Implementing Public Safety Broadband Provisions of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, PS Docket No. 12-94 *et al.* (Released July 31, 2012)

⁷ See FCC EB Docket 06-119 (Katrina Petition)

⁸ See Letter from David Honig, MMTC to Hon. Tom Wheeler, Chairman, Hon. Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner, Hon. Ajit Pai, Commissioner, Hon. Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner, Hon. Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner, FCC, WC Docket No. 10-90; WT Docket No. 10-208 (filed November 27, 2013)

⁹ OPEN COMMISSION MEETING | FCC.GOV, <http://www.fcc.gov/events/open-commission-meeting-november-2013> (last visited Nov 30, 2013)