

July 7, 2014

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication, WC Docket No. 13-184

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On July 7, 2014, Chas Eberle of the Telecommunications Access Policy Division spoke via telephone with David Leonard of the Boston Public Library (BPL). The purpose of the call was to discuss wireless local area network (WLAN) costs for large public libraries.

Mr. Leonard explained that BPL upgraded WLANs and their required supporting network infrastructure in all library branches in the 2011 - 2012 timeframe for at a total budgeted cost of \$2,238,017. Costs for same equipment, cabling, and services today are projected to be higher. Mr. Leonard noted that less than 5% of the cost was for services and equipment that were not eligible for E-rate support at the time. The project provided high-density Wi-Fi coverage for an estimated 711,000 sq. ft., focusing on publicly accessible areas of the buildings in the system where patrons use Wi-Fi enabled devices but excluded some areas used for storage, library stacks, and filing - areas which would be included in future projects. The total internal area of all locations in the BPL system is 1,258,000 sq. ft. (This number excludes exterior adjacent spaces such as sidewalks, plazas and courtyards, which today accommodate library programs and would otherwise be considered part of the Library's WIFI footprint.)

Mr. Leonard also explained that Boston faces unique costs due to the age and historical status of certain buildings. He suggested that the Commission consider exemptions or waivers for high-cost urban libraries.

Respectfully submitted,

 /s/

Charles Eberle

Attorney-Advisor, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau