



Press Statement

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MMTC to Trump Telecom Transition Team: Twelve Imperatives to Close the Digital Divide and Advance Multicultural Media and Telecom Ownership and Procurement in the New Administration

WASHINGTON, D.C. (December 5, 2016): The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) has sent a memorandum to the Trump Administration Telecom Transition Team, recommending twelve imperative actions the White House, Congress, Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and other federal agencies should take to advance diverse media and telecom access, ownership, participation, and procurement in the media and telecom industries.

MMTC's Twelve Imperatives are:

1. Appoint and support FCC leadership that integrates diversity and inclusion into the regulatory rulemaking and public engagement processes.
2. Preserve the FCC's Lifeline program and improve it to enhance marketplace competition and increase the number of eligible program participants.
3. Maintain free data programs that can preserve the affordability of mobile services, especially for economically vulnerable populations who are extremely sensitive to data costs.
4. Provide for multilingual emergency information in all radio markets.
5. Ban geographic redlining in broadband deployment to ensure ubiquitous access for all communities.
6. Engage the multi-stakeholder process to enhance consumer privacy and counter "applications redlining" in the online marketplace.
7. Work with State Public Utility Commissions and the FCC to ban predatory intrastate and interstate telephone rates charged to prisoners and their families.
8. Engage the FCC and the Department of Labor to address employment discrimination in all communications industries and, especially, the dismal EEO record of the high tech industry.
9. Extend FCC equal procurement opportunity enforcement to all regulatory platforms, and engage the General Accounting Office to ensure that federal agencies and departments consider diversity in procurement when choosing suppliers.
10. Encourage the FCC to adopt an Overcoming Disadvantages Preference that would define eligible entities for competitive authorizations and thereby increase ownership diversity.
11. Incentivize Secondary Market Transactions in commercial wireless spectrum by using tax incentives, auction bidding credits and other measures.
12. Create a "Glide Path" for the Short-Term Survival and Long-Term Humane Decommissioning of the AM Band in a Manner that Preserves Minority Ownership.

Acting on these Twelve Imperatives is vital to addressing and remedying the dismally disproportionate levels of participation among diverse groups in the sixth largest industry in the nation. On the consumer side, citing research from Pew, MMTC states that "home broadband adoption among African Americans decreased from 62% in 2013 to 54% in 2015, and among Hispanics decreased from 56% in 2013 to 50% in 2015." On the ownership side, FCC statistics point out that "minority ownership in the media, telecom and internet spaces has stalled at very low levels." Using the FCC statistics, the Memorandum sheds light on the fact that "Hispanic or

Latino ownership made up 2.9% of the number of full-power television stations in 2013, and African American ownership made up 0.6% of these stations.”

These disparities must be remedied because “virtually all of the necessary elements of modern life must be performed online,” and minority ownership is important because it “determines the diversity of viewpoints, stories, and issue analysis that is available to the American people.”

“MMTC has reached out to the Trump administration’s Telecom Transition Team to offer solutions to America’s communications policy challenges. We welcome the opportunity to open a dialogue and collaborate with this administration to cultivate diversity and access to our nation’s most influential industries,” stated MMTC President and CEO Kim Keenan. “It is vital that every community have both a voice and a hand in shaping and participating in the future of technology and innovation. This goal of digital opportunity must reach every American regardless of their status. Our collective future depends on it.”

The Twelve Imperatives Memorandum is available [online](#).

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About MMTC:

The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) is a non-partisan, national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving equal opportunity and civil rights in the mass media, telecom and broadband industries, and closing the digital divide. MMTC is generally recognized as the nation’s leading advocate for minority advancement in communications.