

Press Statement

Contact: Marcella Gadson, Director of Communications <u>mgadson@mmtconline.org</u> (202) 332-0500

MMTC Congratulates Brendan Carr and Geoffrey Starks on Their Confirmations to Serve As FCC Commissioners

WASHINGTON, D.C. (January 3, 2019): The Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC) warmly congratulates newly-confirmed Federal Communications Commissioners Brendan Carr and Geoffrey Starks on their confirmations to serve on the FCC. This is Carr's first full-term appointment to the Commission following his previous confirmation in 2017, and Starks's first appointment after serving as an assistant chief in the FCC's Enforcement Bureau.

MMTC President and CEO Maurita Coley issued the following statement:

MMTC is pleased that the Senate has confirmed Commissioners Carr and Starks, finally granting the FCC a full bench of leadership.

In the year-and-a-half he has served as a Commissioner, Carr has demonstrated that he is an innovative and knowledgeable leader whose door was always open to MMTC to discuss important issues on digital inclusion and minority advancement in FCC policy; he has frequently highlighted issues in which MMTC is deeply invested, including the opportunities 5G deployment brings for unemployed and underemployed people of color through Registered Apprenticeship training programs.

Starks's history with the Enforcement Bureau and the Department of Justice are encouraging, as he is known to deeply believe in the importance of Universal Service programs such as Lifeline, which is designed to connect vulnerable communities to home and mobile phone and broadband – a program for which MMTC has long advocated.

We look forward to working with Commissioners Carr and Starks, and continuing MMTC's advocacy before the rest of the Commission as we bring the concerns of multicultural, low-income, and other marginalized groups to the forefront.

* * * * *

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 social justice in the mass media, telecom and broadband industries, and closing the digital divide. MMTC is generally recognized as the nation's leading advocate for multicultural advancement in communications.