Charter of the
FCC’s Advisory Committee on
Diversity for Communications in the Digital Age

1. The Committee’s Official Designation

The official designation of the advisory committee is the “Advisory Committee on Diversity for Communications in the Digital Age” (hereinafter, the “Committee”).

2. Authority

The Committee was established at the direction of the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act as amended, 5 U.S.C. App.

3. The Committee’s Objectives and Scope of Its Activities

The Committee’s mission is to provide recommendations to the FCC regarding policies and practices that will further enhance diverse participation in the telecommunications and related industries. In particular, the Committee will focus primarily on lowering barriers to entry to communications and related industries for historically disadvantaged men and women, exploring ways in which to ensure universal access to and adoption of broadband in historically disadvantaged communities, and creating an environment that enables employment of a diverse workforce within the communications and related industries.

4. Description of Duties for Which the Committee is Responsible

The Committee will be charged with gathering the data and information necessary to formulate meaningful recommendations for the objectives outlined above. In developing its recommendations, the Committee is directed to consider industry-based as well as targeted regulatory solutions to challenges identified by the data and information it gathers.

5. Official to Whom the Committee Reports

The Committee shall report to the Chairman of the FCC. The Chairman of the FCC shall appoint the members of the Committee, including the Chair of the Committee.

6. Agency Responsible for Providing the Necessary Support

The FCC will provide the facilities and support staff necessary to conduct meetings of the Committee. Committee members will not be compensated for their services.
7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs in Dollars and Staff Years

Annual operating costs associated with supporting the Committee functions are estimated to be $150,000 per year, which includes Commission staff time equivalent to 2 FTE’s.

8. Designated Federal Officer

A full-time or permanent part-time employee, appointed by the FCC Chairman, will serve as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO). The DFO will approve or call all of the advisory committee’s and subcommittees’ meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all committee and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the FCC Chairman.

9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Committee Meetings

The Committee shall meet approximately two (2) times per year.

10. Duration

The Commission will review the accomplishments and activities of the Committee to determine whether, after two years, this charter should be renewed and the Committee should continue as a Federal Advisory Committee.

11. Termination

The Committee shall terminate two (2) years from the date of this charter, unless renewed for an additional term prior to the termination date.

12. Membership and Designation

Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Chairman of the FCC. Members will be appointed either as Representatives or as Special Government Employees (SGEs) as necessary. Members will represent a wide variety of interests, including consumer interests, interests of minority communities and women, tribal interests, and industry interests or, if serving as special Government employees, will have significant expertise in the issues to be addressed by the Committee. Members will be selected to balance the viewpoints that are necessary to address effectively the issues to be considered by the Committee. Members should be prepared to attend approximately two (2) meetings per year of the Committee, and are also expected to participate regularly in the deliberations of one or more of the subcommittees.
13. Subcommittees

The FCC has the authority to create subcommittees. The Committee is authorized to facilitate its work through informal subcommittees that may meet more frequently than the Committee as a whole. Activities and recommendations of the informal subcommittees must be reported to the Committee as a whole, and only as modified or ratified by the Committee as a whole may such recommendations be reported to the Chairman of the FCC.

14. Recordkeeping

Records of the proceedings will be kept, as required by applicable laws and regulations. All records of the Committee, formally and informally established subcommittees, or other subgroups of the committee, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26, Item 2 or other approved agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

15. Charter Filing Date

December 5, 2010