BASS BERRY + SIMS.

Nashville Office 150 Third Avenue South, Suite 2800 Nashville, TN 37201 (615) 742-6244 R. Dale Grimes dgrimes@bassberry.com

Washington D.C. Office 1201 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 300 Washington, DC 20004 (202) 827-2961

December 27, 2021

Via Email and US Mail

Chairman Kenneth C. Hill c/o Ectory Lawless, Dockets and Records Manager Tennessee Public Utility Commission 502 Deaderick Street, Fourth Floor Nashville, Tennessee 37243 tpuc.docketroom@tn.gov

In re: Application of United Telephone Company, on Behalf of Itself and Its Wholly Owned Subsidiary, United Communications Inc., for a State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority – Renewal, Amendment, and Termination of Certificate Issued to Crystal Clear Technologies LLC Docket No. 11-00208

Dear Chairman Hill:

Enclosed please find the original and four (4) copies of United Telephone Company's Application for Renewal and Amendment of State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority, and for Termination of the State-Issued Certificate of Crystal Clear Technologies LLC, which United has acquired as explained in the Application. Also enclosed is a check in the amount of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) to cover the application fee. This Application is being filed electronically with TPUC's Docket Manager.

Please file the original and four (4) copies of this material and return via email the digital stamp copy as "filed". Please note that Exhibits A (maps only) and E are being filed under seal and will be sent under separate email to the Docket Manager.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the email address or telephone number listed above.

With kindest regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

P.Maines

R. Dale Grimes

Enclosures

cc: Kristin Jackson

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

IN RE:)
APPLICATION OF UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY, ON BEHALF OF ITSELF AND ITS WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY, UNITED COMMUNICATIONS, INC., FOR RENEWAL OF AND TO AMEND ITS STATE-ISSUED CERTIFICATE OF FRANCHISE AUTHORITY, AND TO GIVE NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF SEPARATE CERTIFICATE ACQUIRED FROM CRYSTAL CLEAR TECHNOLOGIES.	Docket No. 11-00208 Docket No. 11-00208

AFFIDAVIT OF KRISTIN M. JACKSON

STATE OF TENNESSEE)
)
COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON)

I, Kristin M. Jackson, in accordance with the requirements of the Tennessee Competitive Cable and Video Services Act, Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-59-301 et seq. (the "Act"), state as follows:

I am an employee of United Telephone Company, where my title is Secretary, Treasurer, and CFO. As such, I am authorized to make this affidavit on behalf of Applicant United Telephone Company and its wholly owned subsidiary, United Communications, Inc., formerly known as UTC Video Concepts, LLC.

1. Name of Applicant

The name of the Applicant is United Telephone Company, on behalf of itself and its wholly owned subsidiary United Communications, Inc., (hereinafter collectively referred to as

"Applicant"). The latter entity was formerly known as UTC Video Concepts, LLC, but its name was changed to United Communications, Inc. through Articles of Conversion on July 6, 2012.

Applicant received a State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority to serve the areas specified therein on January 11, 2012. The Tennessee Public Utility Commission ("TPUC") granted the First Amendment to Applicant's State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority on September 10, 2019.

The purpose of this Application is to Renew Applicant's State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority as amended and to amend its Certificate to add new Service Areas as provided herein. In addition, this Application acknowledges that Applicant acquired the cable and video assets of Crystal Clear Technologies, LLC ("Crystal Clear"), including a State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority, which Applicant seeks to terminate.

2. Application Fee for Service Area Population of over 100,000, up to and including 500,000 (Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-59-305(b)(2))

An application fee of \$2,000.00 is submitted with this Application for the renewal of the Certificate consistent with Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-59-305(b)(2) and based on the population of service area(s) as reflected in the most recent decennial census applied for in this Application. Such service areas are described in Exhibit A.

3. Compliance with Applicable Laws (Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-59-305(c)(1))

Applicant agrees to comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations to the extent that such state laws and regulations are not in conflict with or superseded by the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated Title 7, Chapter 59, Part 3, or other applicable law, and will timely

file with the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") all forms required by the FCC in advance of offering video services or cable services. Applicant will comply with all applicable FCC requirements involving the distribution and notification of emergency messages over the emergency alert system consistent with the enforcement of the rules, and any waivers to the rules, as determined by the FCC.

4. Description of Municipalities and Unincorporated Areas to be Served Pursuant to the Renewal and to be Added Pursuant to the Amendment (Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-59-305(c)(2))

This Application for Renewal of Applicant's Certificate covers all areas in Applicant's original Certificate, including any Amendments. These areas are delineated in Exhibit A-1.

This Application also seeks to add, by Amendment to its Certificate, new service areas, including portions of Decherd, Eagleville, Lewisburg, Murfreesboro, Petersburg, and Smyrna, and other unincorporated areas within Bedford, Franklin, Lincoln, Marshall, Rutherford, and Wilson counties. These new areas are delineated in Exhibit A-2.

Exhibits A-1 and A-2 are incorporated by reference into this Affidavit.¹

5. Provision of and/or Intent to Begin to Offer Cable or Broadband Internet Service (Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-59-305(c)(3))

Applicant currently offers, pursuant to its existing Certificate, or intends to offer, video or cable services and/or provide broadband service in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. §7-59-311(d), in each of the municipalities and unincorporated areas of each county shown in Exhibit A-1. As to the geographic territories shown in Exhibit A-2, Applicant intends to begin to offer cable

3

¹ The maps included with Exhibit A contain confidential and proprietary information and are being filed "under seal." Applicant respectfully requests the Commission to maintain their confidentiality accordingly.

and/or new broadband service for purchase in the areas identified in <u>Exhibit A-2</u> within twenty-four (24) months of the date of issuance of an Amended Certificate of Franchise Authority.

6. Indemnification (Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-59-305(c)(4))

Applicant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless, in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. §7-59-318, the State, municipality, county and any employee or representative of the State, municipality or county, as well as any political subdivision of the State and any employee or representative of the political subdivision, individually and collectively, referred to in Tenn. Code Ann. §7-59-318 as the "indemnitee."

7. Applicant Contact Information (Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-59-305(c)(5))

- a. Applicant's principal place of business is located at 120 Taylor Street, P.O. Box 38, Chapel Hill, TN 37034.
- b. Contact telephone number is (931) 364-2289.
- c. The principal executive officers of the Applicant are as follows:

United Telephone Company

Steven E. Seger, Chairman of the Board of Directors William Jordan, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors William H. Bradford, President & CEO Kristin M. Jackson, Treasurer, Secretary & CFO

United Communications, Inc., f/k/a UTC Video Concepts, LLC

Steven E. Seger, Chairman of the Board of Directors William Jordan, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors William H. Bradford, President & CEO Kristin M. Jackson, Treasurer, Secretary & CFO

- d. The following persons are authorized to represent Applicant before the Tennessee Public Utility Commission:
 - i. William H. Bradford
 - ii. Kristin M. Jackson
 - iii. R. Dale Grimes, Legal Counsel

8. Applicant Has the Managerial, Financial, and Technical Qualifications to Provide Cable Service (Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-59-305(c)(6) and (d)(2))

As recognized in TPUC Docket 11-00208, Applicant has the managerial, financial and technical qualifications to provide cable or video service as required by Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-59-305(c)(6) and (d)(2). United Telephone Company is a certificated provider in the State of Tennessee. Accordingly, the TPUC has determined that Applicant has the managerial, financial, and technical qualifications to provide local telephone service. In addition, United Communications, Inc., f/k/a UTC Video Concepts, LLC was granted a State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority in 2012, and has been providing cable and video services pursuant to that Certificate, and therefore the TPUC has determined that Applicant has the managerial, financial, and technical qualifications to provide cable and video services. That determination was reaffirmed in 2019 when the TPUC granted Applicant an Amendment to its State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority. Based on Applicant's experience and success providing telecommunications services and cable and video services, United Telephone Company and its wholly-owned subsidiary United Communications, Inc., f/k/a UTC Video Concepts, LLC have the managerial, financial, and technical qualifications to provide similar cable and video services.

1. <u>Managerial Qualifications</u>: Applicant has been providing telecommunications services in Tennessee since 1947, and video and cable services since 2012, primarily to Tennesseans in the seven (7) Tennessee counties serviced by Applicant, namely Bedford, Davidson, Franklin, Marshall, Moore, Rutherford and Williamson Counties. As a result of over seventy years of providing local service, Applicant knows its customers well and has the valuable experience as a telecommunications and cable service provider necessary for the renewal of its Certificate and to begin providing video and cable services in additional service areas.

United Telephone Company maintains its headquarters in Chapel Hill, Tennessee, and already operates experienced local customer service and installer/repair departments that provide exceptional customer experiences in delivering advanced broadband, communications, and cable and video services. Further, Applicant's employees already utilize coordinated back office systems necessary that are being used in the certificated service areas and can easily be expanded to add video and cable services to the product portfolio in the new service areas. Accordingly, Applicant's employees are already trained and experienced on the back office systems necessary to provide video and cable services in the existing and proposed new service areas, resolve service and repair issues, and handle billing inquiries in an efficient and timely manner.

Applicant is managerially qualified to provide cable and video services in its existing and proposed service areas. Applicant is currently managed by William H. Bradford, President & CEO, and he is supported by highly qualified and competent directors and staff. Attached hereto as Exhibit B is a list of the names of Applicant's principal company officers and staff and a description of each officer's and staff member's background and experience. As shown in Exhibit B, Applicant's staff has substantial managerial experience in the areas of utility operations, utility customer service and utility marketing. Further, all members of the management team have prior experience in the video and cable services sector.

2. <u>Financial Qualifications</u>: Applicant has been meeting the requirements of a financially stable regulated utility in the state of Tennessee for over seventy years. Throughout this time Applicant has filed annual financial and operating reports reflecting its ability to continue to invest in its network, pay-off debt, and build cash, which are all important aspects of a healthy

company. Applicant's annual reports are on file with the TPUC. Accordingly, Applicant has a proven history of being financially qualified to provide cable and video services.

3. <u>Technical Qualifications</u>: Based in part on its experience since 1947 as a telecommunications services provider, and its experience since 2012 of providing cable and video services, coupled with its demonstrated managerial experience, Applicant possesses the necessary technical qualifications to provide cable and video services in its existing and the proposed new service areas. As noted earlier herein, Applicant has successfully serviced its telecommunications customers since 1947, and its cable and video customers since 2012. Employees of United Communications, Inc., are also employees of United Telephone Company. United Telephone Company has been providing broadband services for over 20 years; therefore, the technical staff and senior management team have extensive broadband experience.

Information concerning the technical expertise of Applicant's senior management team is included in Exhibit B. This experience provides Applicant with the foundation necessary to provide the proposed cable and video services. While Applicant believes that it has sufficient technical expertise to provide these and other broadband services, Applicant also has access to various technical consultants on whom it may call if the need arises.

9. Customer Service Complaint Handling Process (Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-59-305(c)(7))

Policies on addressing customer service issues, billing adjustments and communications with government officials regarding customer complaints:

Applicant has a staff of over forty dedicated local employees and has provided service and quality customer care for over 70 years. As such, subscribers in the new service areas who have

questions or complaints regarding their subscriptions to Applicant's services will have access to Applicant by writing to United Telephone, 120 Taylor Street, P.O. Box 38, Chapel Hill, TN 37034, by visiting our web site at: http://www.united.net, or by contacting the toll-free number listed below and included on all billing statements. Applicant will continue to address customer questions or complaints in a timely manner. Should a customer believe that his/her request was not properly handled, he/she may contact the Tennessee Public Service Commission.

Local or toll-free telephone number at which a customer may contact Applicant:

1-800-779-2227 or 931-364-2289

10. Notice to Affected Local Governing Authority (Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-59-305(c)(8))

Notice has been provided to the affected local governing authorities at the addresses set forth in Exhibit C of their right to receive a franchise fee consistent with the Act. Notice will also be provided to other entities with facilities in the rights-of-way consistent with any non-discriminatory and generally applicable local ordinances or resolutions requiring such notice.

11. Non-Discrimination and Service Deployment Requirements (Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-59-305(c)(9))

Applicant agrees to comply with the requirements of the Act, expressly including the applicable non-discrimination and service deployment requirements of Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-59-311. In addition, the Applicant acknowledges the provisions of Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-59-312 relative to enforcement of non-discrimination and deployment requirements.

12. Notice to Local Governing Authority Prior to Providing Service (Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-59-305(c)(10))

Following issuance of the renewed State-issued certificate of franchise authority, with any amendments, Applicant will provide notice to any affected local governing authority at least ten (10) days prior to providing service in that jurisdiction.

13. Minority Owned Business Participation Plan (Tenn. Code Ann. \S 7-59-305(c)(11))

Exhibit D to this Application is Applicant's Minority Owned Business Participation Plan and Applicant agrees to comply with the provisions of the Plan in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-59-313 and is incorporated by reference into this Affidavit.

14. Acquisition and Notice of Termination of Certificate of Franchise Authority Issued to Crystal Clear Technologies, LLC (Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-59-305(h))

In addition, this Application acknowledges that Applicant acquired the cable assets of Crystal Clear as of May 1, 2021, including the State-Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority previously certificated to Crystal Clear in Docket No. 16-00009. At the time of the acquisition, Crystal Clear was not providing any cable or video services pursuant to that Certificate. Applicant is not providing, nor does it intend to provide, such services in those territories.

Accordingly, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 7-59-305(h) Applicant hereby gives written notice to the Tennessee Public Utility Commission of the termination of that Certificate, and will provide a copy to the governing authority of the affected municipality of Thompson Station. Further, there are no existing customers to whom notice of this termination may be provided. The former Crystal Clear service areas are delineated in Exhibit E.²

9

² The map included in Exhibit E contains confidential and proprietary information and is being filed "under seal." Applicant respectfully requests the Commission to maintain its confidentiality accordingly.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

Kristin M. Jackson, Secretary, Treasurer & CFO

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this A day of December, 2021.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 8-4-33

EXHIBIT A

EXHIBIT A

DESCRIPTION OF MUNICIPALITIES AND UNINCORPORATED AREAS TO BE SERVED

A-1 - Renewal Areas

Franchise Service Areas: Incorporated

Service Area/City	County		
Brentwood	Williamson		
Chapel Hill	Marshall		
Estill Springs Franklin			
LaVergne	Rutherford		
Lewisburg	Marshall		
Metro Nashville	Davidson		
Smyrna	Rutherford		
Thompson Station	Williamson		

Franchise Service Areas: Unincorporated

Those areas as further defined on the attached maps, located in the following counties:

Bedford County Franklin County Marshall County Maury County Moore County Rutherford County Williamson County

A-2 - 2021 Amendment Areas

Proposed Franchise Service Areas: Incorporated

Service Area/City	County		
Decherd	Franklin		
Eagleville	Rutherford		
Lewisburg	Marshall		
Murfreesboro	Rutherford		
Petersburg	Marshall/Lincoln		
Smyrna	Rutherford		

Proposed Franchise Service Areas: Unincorporated

Those areas as further defined on the attached maps, located in the following counties:

Bedford County Franklin County Lincoln County Marshall County Moore County Rutherford County Wilson County

MAPS FILED UNDER SEAL

EXHIBIT B



EXHIBIT B BIOGRAPHIES OF KEY MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEES

William Bradford, President & Chief Executive Officer:

William Bradford is the President & CEO of United Communications, an entity he formed in partnership with Gene Johnson, providing telecommunications services to over 11,000 residential and business customers in Middle Tennessee. William is a telecommunications management executive with almost 20 years of broad industry experience acquiring and operating internet and telecommunications operations around the Country, primarily focused on serving rural, underserved markets. Prior to founding United Communications, William was President of JB Capital Advisors, LLC, providing transaction, finance, and strategic advisory services to business executives and investors, primarily in the telecom and technology sectors. William spent 7 years at FairPoint Communications, Inc., where he served as the Vice President of Corporate Development, responsible for strategic planning, mergers and acquisitions, and financial analysis. From 2006 to 2008, William was a member of the management team of American Broadband Communications, where he was responsible for acquisitions, corporate finance, and strategic initiatives. William has been an active participant in state and federal industry associations and is currently the President of the Tennessee Telecommunications Association. Additionally, William serves as Chairman of IRIS Networks, a leading provider of wholesale telecommunications services, specializing in tower backhaul solutions for wireless carriers and regional fiber transport for large carriers and enterprises. IRIS operates a state of the art fiber optic network, using leading edge IP/MPLS Ethernet technologies strategically deployed with over 5,000 route miles in the Southeast with 116 POP locations located in 6 states including super POP sites in Chicago and Atlanta. William currently serves as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Adolfson & Peterson Construction, one of the hundred largest general contractors in the US. William graduated cum laude from Wake Forest University, with a degree in Mathematical Economics. William currently lives in Brentwood, TN with his wife and four young children.

Kristin Jackson, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Jackson has been with United since 2016, joining the team after spending seven years in public accounting at a large regional accounting firm, Jackson Thornton. While at Jackson Thornton, Mrs. Jackson managed financial statement and compliance audits of telecom and electric utility private companies and cooperatives across much of the Southeast. Mrs. Jackson is a Certified Public Accountant in the State of Tennessee and State of Alabama. Mrs. Jackson holds a master's degree in Accounting from Auburn University, and a bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Kristin is President of the Tennessee Telecommunications Accounting Association and a member of the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants. Kristin resides in Murfreesboro, TN with her husband and three young children.

Josh Lynch, Chief Customer Officer

Mr. Lynch has been with United since 2017, when the company he founded, Athena Broadband, was acquired by United. Under the leadership of Mr. Lynch, Athena quickly became a successful ISP with a focus on providing service to under-served areas and providing businesses with a customer-focused alternative to their current providers. Athena provided fixed wireless, VoIP, & FTTH and found great success with enterprise level accounts by building both a reliable network and solid relationships with customers. Prior to founding Athena, Mr. Lynch founded and operated a satellite TV and Internet reseller which performed sales and installations across the US for health care providers, businesses, and lodging institutions. Mr. Lynch graduated Magna Cum Laude from Lee University in Cleveland, TN with a degree in Business Administration and resides in Lewisburg with his wife and 2 young children where he serves on the Board of Directors for the Shelbyville-Bedford County Chamber of Commerce and the Boys and Girls Club of Bedford County.

Richard Jursoky, Chief Technology Officer

Mr. Jurosky has been with United since 2020, after twenty years at various telecommunications providers. Prior to joining United, Mr. Jurosky was the Director of Field Operations at Century Link for the Tennessee, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas markets. While at Century Link, he was responsible for the entire long haul and metro networks and all the technical employees in his markets. Mr. Jurosky graduated from Pennsylvania State University with an Associate Degree in Electrical Engineering Technology. Mr. Jurosky lives in Brentwood with his wife and daughter.

Jaimy Cooper, Director of Network Operations

Mr. Cooper has been with United since 2005 and is responsible all core network operations, focused on building a consistent and reliable network capable of delivering faster internet speeds, digital IPTV, cloud-based phone services, and enterprise Ethernet services, enabling the company to achieve revenue growth targets and improve customer satisfaction. Previously, Mr. Cooper worked for Spirit Telecom in South Carolina, where he gained relevant experience as a network engineer supporting numerous independent telephone companies achieve network optimization to support multiple services such as IPTV, Internet, and VoIP. Jaimy currently holds CICA, CICE, and BAIS certifications. Mr. Cooper served 8 years in the US Marine Corps, achieving the rank of Corporal and participating in Operation Desert Shield (Iraq) and Operation Restore Hope (Somalia).

John Rowland, Director of Wireless Operations

Mr. Rowland has been with United since 2017, when the company he co-founded, Athena Broadband, was acquired by United. Prior to co-founding Athena, John was Director of Operations for EnterSource. EnterSource provides entertainment and networking solutions for hotel, hospital, business, and residential customers throughout the US, specializing in solutions for the medical industry. It is also a key system operator for DIRECTV's MDU channel and has a full line of offerings for residential service. EnterSource is an authorized retailer for Dish Network, DIRECTV, HughesNet, Charter, Comcast and Athena Broadband. John currently serves as a curriculum advisor to the Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Shelbyville.

Tim Thompson, Director of Construction

Mr. Thompson has been with United since 2020, where he is responsible for all construction operations in the field, focused on aggressively expanding United's FTTP network at an industry-leading cost per passing and safety record, enabling the company to pass as many new premises each year with its annual capital budget. Prior to joining United, Tim worked at Charter Communications as a Construction Manager for three years, managing all construction activities for 30,000 miles of infrastructure across Tennessee and Georgia.

Brad Prickett, Director of Business Development

Mr. Prickett has been with United since 2021, where he is responsible for providing enterprise level solutions for current and prospective customers. Prior to joining United, Brad worked at Comcast in the business-to-business unit, providing ethernet, voice, managed services, and software-defined solutions to large and small business throughout the Southeast.

Kimberly Goodwin, Director of Sales

Mrs. Goodwin joined the United team in March 2019 and is responsible for helping local businesses achieve new levels of success with trusted communications solutions. Kimberly's previous experience includes roles such as Manager of Business Sales at Comcast and Regional Manager at Charter. Kimberly has also achieved various accolades including Top National Producing Manager at Comcast's President's Club and two-time Platinum Club Award recipient at Charter. Kimberly previously served as an Ambassador of the Tullahoma Chamber of Commerce where she earned an award for Ambassador of the Year. She has also served as a Board of Director of the Tullahoma Chamber of Commerce and Gattis Leadership, a multi-county leadership program and extension of Tennessee's Three Star Program which focuses on economic growth. Kimberly and her husband reside just south of Murfreesboro in Coffee County where they are members of Rutledge Falls Baptist Church.

Kim Hitchcock, Director of Human Resources

Mrs. Hitchcock began working with United in January 2019. Kim strategically plans and implements systems and process to maximize talent resources from hire to retire. Her responsibilities also include strategic initiatives such as leadership and organizational development and succession planning. Kim has over eight years in Human Resource roles including Training and Education Manager, Senior HR Leader, and Owner/Consultant of an HR and Leadership Development consulting company. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Education from Middle Tennessee State University and holds an MBA from Tennessee Technological University. She has her PHR certification and is a certified Behavior and Motivator Analyst with TTI Success Insights. Kim has been certified as a Master Trainer with NCCER and she is a member of SHRM, National Association of Professional Women, and the Association for Talent Development.

Fred Slater, Director of Marketing

Fred has been with United since 2020 and oversees all aspects of marketing including the company website, social media, campaign design and rollouts, and lead generation. He focuses his marketing efforts on United's core market, the underserved, as well as United's expansion market in MTEMC's footprint. He ensures the company is generating the most positive exposure and the highest level of business possible for the advertising dollar spent. Previously, Mr. Slater worked at various advertising agencies, leading strategic-directing research and assessment and developing brand-differentiating campaigns for clients.

EXHIBIT C

EXHIBIT C
NOTICE OF RIGHT TO RECEIVE FRANCHISE FEE

First Name	Last Name	Title	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	ZIP Code
Rhea	Little, III	Mayor	City of Brentwood	PO Box 788	Brentwood	TN	37024
Mike	Faulkenberry	Mayor	Town of Chapel Hill	PO Box 157	Chapel Hill	TN	37034
Michael	Gillespie	Mayor	City of Decherd	PO Box 488	Decherd	TN	37324
Chad	Leeman	Mayor	City of Eagleville	108 South Main St	Eagleville	TN	37060
James	Kelley	Mayor	Estill Springs City Hall	PO Drawer 100	Estill Springs	TN	37330
Jason	Cole	Mayor	City of La Vergne	5093 Murfreesboro Rd	La Vergne	TN	37086
Jim	Bingham	Mayor	City of Lewisburg	131 East Church Street	Lewisburg	TN	37091
Derek	Adams	Mayor	City of Nolensville	705 Stonebrook Blvd, PO Box 547	Nolensville	TN	37135
Shane	McFarland	Mayor	City of Murfreesboro	111 West Vine St	Murfreesboro	TN	37130
Logan	Jolly	Mayor	Town of Petersburg	120 Eastside Square	Petersburg	TN	37144
Mary Esther	Reed	Mayor	Town of Smyrna	315 South Lowry St	Smyrna	TN	37167
Corey	Napier	Mayor	Town of Thompson's Station	PO Box 100	Thompson's Station	TN	37179
Chad	Graham	County Mayor	Bedford County	One Public Square, Suite	Shelbyville	TN	37160
John	Cooper	County Mayor	Davidson County	100 Metro Courthouse	Nashville	TN	37201
David	Alexander	County Mayor	Franklin County	1 South Jefferson Street	Winchester	TN	37398
Bill	Newman	County Mayor	Lincoln County	112 Main Ave. S. Room 101	Fayetteville	TN	37334
Mike	Keny	County Mayor	Marshall County	1108 Courthouse Annex	Lewisburg	TN	37091
Andy	Ogles	County Mayor	Maury County	41 Public Square	Columbia	TN	38401
Bonnie	Lewis	County Mayor	Moore County	PO Box 206	Lynchburg	TN	37352
Bill	Ketron	County Mayor	Rutherford County	County Courthouse, One Public Square, Room 101	Murfreesboro	TN	37130
Rogers	Anderson	County Mayor	Williamson County	1320 West Main Street, Suite 125	Franklin	TN	37064
Randall	Hutto	County Mayor	Wilson County	228 East Main St. Room 104	Lebanon	TN	37087

EXHIBIT D



SMALL & MINORITY OWNED BUSINESS PARTICIPATION PLAN

Updated: December 2021

SMALL AND MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESS PARTICIPATION PLAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	PURPOSE
2.0	DEFINITIONS
3.0	POLICY STATEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION
4.0	RECORDS AND COMPLIANCE REPORTS

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 United is committed to promoting and maintaining the purchase of goods and services from qualified small and minority-owned businesses, as defined herein. As a locally operated small business, we recognize the challenges of building and growing a small business and want to do our part to support other businesses serving our industry.
- 1.2 United is committed to meeting the obligations required by Section 16 of the Tennessee Telecommunications Act of 1995, codified as T.C.A. § 65-5-112. The purpose of §65-5-112 is to provide opportunities for small and minority-owned businesses to provide goods and services to Telecommunications service providers. United is committed to the goals of § 65-5-112 and to taking steps to support the participation of small and minority-owned Telecommunications businesses in the Telecommunications industry. United will endeavor to provide opportunities for small and minority-owned Telecommunications businesses to compete for contracts and subcontracts for goods and services. As part of its procurement process, United will make efforts to identify and inform minority-owned and small businesses that are qualified and capable of providing goods and services to United of such opportunities. Moreover, United will seek to increase awareness of such opportunities so that qualified companies not otherwise identified will have sufficient information to participate in the procurement process.
- 1.3 United is committed to meeting the obligations required by Public Chapter 932 of 2008, known as the Competitive Cable and Video Services Act (the "Act"), codified as T.C.A. § 7-59-318. Pursuant to T.C.A. § 7-59-313, as amended, United maintains a minority-owned business participation plan. The purpose of T.C.A. § 7-59-313 is to provide opportunities for minority-owned businesses to provide goods and services to video and cable service providers, United is committed to the goals of § 7-59-313 and to taking steps to support the participation of minorityowned businesses in the Telecommunications industry. United will endeavor to provide opportunities for minority-owned businesses to compete for contracts and subcontracts for goods and services. As part of its procurement process, United will make efforts to identify and inform minority-owned and small businesses that are qualified and capable of providing goods and services to United of such opportunities. Moreover, United will seek to increase awareness of such opportunities so that qualified companies not otherwise identified will have sufficient information to participate in the procurement process.
- 1.4 The Administration of this Plan is the responsibility of United. It is the policy of United to provide an opportunity for small and minority-owned businesses, as defined herein, to compete for subcontracts awarded by United on a fair and equitable basis with qualified suppliers and contractors.
- 1.5 This plan is a state of objectives and is not intended to create any legal obligations of United or any other person.

2.0 **DEFINITIONS**

- 2.1 "United" For the purpose of this Plan, United shall include United Telephone Company, its wholly-owned subsidiary, United Communications, Inc. (formerly UTC Video Concepts, LLC) and UTC Long Distance, LLC.
- 2.2 "Minority Owned Business" (as defined in T.C.A. § 65-5-112) "Minority-Owned Business" shall mean a business which is solely owned, or at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the outstanding stock of which is owned, by an individual who personally manages and controls daily operations of such business, and who is impeded from normal entry into the economic mainstream because of race, religion, sex or

national origin and such business has annual gross receipts of less than four million dollars (\$4,000,000).

- (as defined in T.C.A. § 7-59-313) "Minority-Owned Business" additionally shall mean a business which is solely owned, or at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the outstanding stock of which is owned, by an individual who personally manages and controls daily operations of such business, and who is impeded from normal entry into the economic mainstream because of:
 - A. Past practices of discrimination based on race, religion, ethnic background, or sex, including, but not limited, women;
 - B. A disability as defined in T.C.A. § 4-26-102, including, but not limited to, disabled veterans; or
 - C. Past practices of racial discrimination against African-Americans.
- 2.3 "Small Business" (as defined in T.C.A. § 65-5-112) For the purpose of this Plan, "Small Business" means a business with annual gross receipts of less than four million dollars (\$4,000,000).

3.0 POLICY STATEMENT & ADMINISTRATION

- 3.1 It is the policy of United to afford Small Businesses and Minority-Owned Businesses and opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts in accordance with T.C.A. § 65-5-112 and T.C.A. § 7-59-313.
- 3.2 United's Plan will be overseen and administered by the individual named below, which may change from time-to time, hereinafter referred to as the Administrator, who will be responsible for carrying out and promoting United's full efforts to provide equal opportunities for Small Business and Minority-Owned Businesses.
- 3.3 The Administrator of the Plan will be:

Mrs. Lisa Hedgepeth Purchasing Agent 120 Taylor Street P. O. Box 38 Chapel Hill, Tennessee 37034

Telephone: 931.364.4329: Fax: 931.364.7202

- 3.4 The Administrator's specific job duties, as they relate to this Plan are as follows:
 - A. Maintaining an updated plan in full compliance with T.C.A. § 65-5-112 and T.C.A. § 7-59-313 and the rules and orders of the Tennessee Public Utilities Commission.
 - B. Establishing and developing policies and procedures for the successful implementation of the Plan.
 - C. Preparing and submitting such forms as may be required by the Tennessee Public Utilities Commission, including the filing of required annual updates.
 - D. Serving as the primary liaison to and cooperate with the Tennessee Public Utilities Commission, other agencies of the State of Tennessee,

and Small Businesses and Minority-Owned Businesses to locate and use qualified businesses as defined in T.C.A. § 65-5-112 and T.C.A. § 7-59-313.

- E. Searching for and developing opportunities to use Small Businesses and Minority-Owned Businesses and encouraging such businesses to participate in and bid on contracts and subcontracts.
- F. Providing records and reports and cooperates in any authorized surveys as required by the Tennessee Public Utilities Commission.
- G. Establishing a record-keeping system to track qualified Small Businesses and Minority-Owned Businesses and efforts to use such businesses.
- H. Providing information and educational activities to persons within United and training such persons to seek out, encourage, and promote the use of Small Businesses and Minority-Owned Businesses.

In performance of these duties, the Administrator will utilize a number of resources, including:

- Chambers of Commerce
- The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development
- The United States Department of Commerce
 - Small Business Administration
 - Office of Minority Business
- The National Minority Supplier Development Counsel
- The National Association of Women Business Owners
- The National Association of Minority Contractors
- Historically Black Colleges, Universities, and Minority Institutions

The efforts to promote and ensure equal opportunities for Small Business and Minority-Owned Business are primarily spelled out in the Administrator's duties above. Additional efforts will include offering technical assistance, where appropriate and feasible, to Small Businesses and Minority-Owned Businesses.

4.0 RECORDS AND COMPLIANCE REPORTS

- 4.1 United will maintain records of qualified Small Businesses and Minority-Owned Businesses and efforts to use such goods and services of such businesses. In addition, United will maintain records of educational and training activities conducted or attended and of the internal procurement procedures adopted to support this plan.
- 4.2 United will submit records and reports required by the Tennessee Public Utilities Commission concerning the Plan. United will cooperate fully with any surveys and studies required by the Tennessee Public Utilities Commission.

EXHIBIT E FILED UNDER SEAL