

**IN THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
AT NASHVILLE TENNESSEE**

IN RE:)	
)	
COMPLAINT AND PETITION AGAINST)	
COMTECH 21, LLC FOR ALLEGED)	
VIOLATIONS OF THE STATUTES AND)	DOCKET NO. 24-00060
RULES REGULATING SMALL AND)	
MINORITY-OWNED)	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUSINESS)	
PARTICIPATION PLANS)	

PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF CARLOS BLACK

Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

A. My name is Carlos Black. My business address is 502 Deaderick Street, 4th Floor, Nashville, Tennessee.

Q. BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND IN WHAT CAPACITY?

A. I am employed by the Tennessee Public Utility Commission (“Commission” or “TPUC”). My title is Utility Rate Specialist.

Q. DO YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION INCLUDE DUTIES RELATED TO SMALL AND MINORITY-OWNED TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUSINESS PLAN (“SMBP Plan”) FILINGS FROM PROVIDERS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES?

A. Yes. I receive the annual SMBP Plan filings required by Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-112. I ensure that regulated providers of telecommunications services in Tennessee have submitted the annual filing required by law. I send reminder letters as the due date for the filing approaches and where a regulated utility has not timely submitted the annual filing, I make contact with Company representatives in an attempt to obtain compliance.

16 **Q. IN THE COURSE OF YOUR DUTIES RELATED TO SMBP PLAN FILINGS,**
17 **HAVE YOU HAD ANY INTERACTIONS WITH COMTECH 21, LLC (“Comtech 21” or**
18 **“Company”)?**

19 **A.** Yes. Comtech 21 did not submit the required annual filing relating to its SMBP plan on or
20 before April 30, 2024 as required. On April 1, 2024, prior to the deadline, I sent a reminder letter
21 to Comtech 21 to the address provided to the Commission requesting the Company submit its
22 annual SMBP Plan filing. After the deadline for filing had passed, I attempted to call a Company
23 Representative of Comtech 21 on two (2) occasions. I was unsuccessful in reaching the Company
24 Representative, but left voicemail messages for the representative on May 21, 2024 and June 26,
25 2024. I sent a follow up letter to the Company requesting the annual SMBP Plan filing on July 3,
26 2024.

27 **Q. WHAT, IF ANYTHING, HAS BEEN THE RESPONSE FROM COMTECH 21?**

28 **A.** Comtech 21 has not responded to the letters or to either voicemail message. The
29 Commission has had no contact with Comtech 21 or any representative of the Company.

30 **Q. HAS COMTECH 21 COMPLIED WITH THE ANNUAL REQUIREMENT TO**
31 **FILE INFORMATION CONCERNING ITS SMBP PLAN?**

32 **A.** No. The Tennessee Public Utility Commission has not received any documentation from
33 Comtech 21 that would satisfy its annual SMBP plan filing requirement.

34 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

35 **A.** Yes

STATE OF TENNESSEE)

COUNTY OF DAVIDSON)

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, duly commissioned and qualified in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally came and appeared Carlos Black, being by me first duly sworn and deposed and said that:

He is appearing as a witness on behalf of the Tennessee Public Utility Commission before the Tennessee Public Utility Commission, and if present before the Commission and duly sworn, his testimony would be as set forth in his pre-filed testimony in this matter.

Carlos C Black

Carlos Black

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12th day of November, 2024.



AJ Conklin

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 10/16/2027