

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**

**Public Utilities Commission**

**Minutes of Open Meeting Held January 5, 2017**

**Attendees:** Chairperson Margaret Curran, Commissioner Herbert DeSimone, Commissioner Marion Gold, Patricia Lucarelli, Cynthia Wilson-Frias, Maggie Hogan, Alan Nault and Luly Massaro.

**Chairperson Curran called the Open Meeting to order at 11:00 A.M. in the first-floor hearing room of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). A quorum was present.**

**3569 – Rules Governing the Acceptance of Credit Card by Utility Companies (Rules) –**

The PUC reviewed the comments submitted in response to PUC's proposal to repeal the rules. The Division and National Grid submitted comments. The PUC agreed that rules requiring uniformity does not seem necessary since uniformity is not practiced and repealing the rules does not change the status quo. Chairperson Curran moved to repeal the Rules Governing the Acceptance of Credit Card by Utility Companies. Commissioner Gold seconded the motion and the motion was passed. **Vote 3-0.**

**4675 - New England Telephone Collections Procedure (Rules) –** The PUC reviewed the comments submitted in response to PUC's proposal to repeal the rules. Verizon RI, formerly New England Telephone, submitted comments. The PUC agreed that repealing the rules will cause no harm to customers as it only applies to Verizon's POTS service (plain old telephone service). Chairperson Curran moved to repeal the rules governing New England Telephone Collections Procedure. Commissioner DeSimone seconded the motion and the motion passed. **Vote 3-0.**

**4383 & 4479 - Total Call Mobile, Inc. (Company) –** The Company submitted a request to relinquish its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) Designation in the State of Rhode Island due to changes in the wireless industry and proposed modifications to the Lifeline program (in Docket 4383). The Company also requested to cancel and withdraw its authority as a telecommunications carrier (in Docket 4479). It was noted that Total Call Mobile has no customers in Rhode Island. Relinquishing its ETC designation will cause no harm to customers as there are other carriers that offer lifeline services in Rhode Island. Commissioner Gold moved to authorize the Company to relinquish its ETC Designation and to cancel the Company's authority as a carriers of telecommunications service in Rhode Island. Chairperson Curran seconded the motion and the motion unanimously passed. **Vote 3-0.**

The Open Meeting adjourned at 11:10 A.M.