# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of Proposed	)		
Modifications to the Missouri	)	Case No.	TO-2019-0346
Universal Service Fund	)		

#### STAFF'S NOTICE

**COMES NOW** the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, by and through counsel, and for its *Notice* in this matter hereby states:

- 1. The Commission opened a docket May 15, 2019, to permit Staff to review and make recommendations regarding the Missouri Universal Service Fund (MoUSF). The Commission ultimately ordered to suspend the MoUSF fund assessment and to increase the support amount provided to Lifeline members receiving voice-only services in its *Order* issued November 21, 2019. Staff provided its updated recommendation based on the current environment and pending Federal Communications Commission (FCC) actions, on October 6, 2020. Staff presented its recommendations to the Universal Service Board at its quarterly meeting held November 2, 2020.
- 2. Staff recommended to the Board continuing the suspension of the MoUSF assessment through December 31, 2021. Additionally, Staff proposed that the MoUSF support amount for Lifeline voice-only services should be increased by \$2.00 from \$16.75 to \$18.75 if the FCC continues with its plan to reduce support by \$2.00 on December 1, 2020. Finally, Staff recommends that the companies should be given flexibility to implement this support level change any time from

December 1, 2020 through February 1, 2021. The Board approved Staff's recommendations in its meeting. Staff now provides notice in this docket so that the appropriate actions may be implemented in this docket, consistent with the Board's positions.

WHEREFORE, Staff prays that the Commission will accept its *Notice*; adopt the recommendations approved by the Universal Service Board, including continued suspension of the MoUSF assessment; increased MoUSF support for Lifeline voice-only services from \$16.75 to \$18.75 if the FCC reduces its support by \$2.00; to provide ample notice to telecommunications providers to implement the recommended changes; and to grant such other and further relief as the Commission considers just in the circumstances.

#### /s/ Whitney Payne

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### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by electronic mail, or First Class United States Postal Mail, postage prepaid, on this 3rd day of November, 2020, to all counsel of record.

## /s/ Whitney Payne