# SECRETARY'S RECORD, NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

## BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Joint	)	Application No. C-4930
Application of Global	)	
Connection Inc. of America,	)	
Global Connection Holdings	)	
Corporation, Norcross, Georgia,	)	
and Odin Mobile, LLC,	)	GRANTED
Rockville, Maryland, seeking	)	
approval of transfer of control	)	
of Global Connection Inc. of	)	
America to Odin Mobile, LLC.	)	Entered: July 5, 2017

### BY THE COMMISSION:

On May 24, 2017, a joint application was filed by Global Connection Inc. of America (Global Connection), Global Connection Holdings Corporation (Global Holdings), Norcross, Georgia, and Odin Mobile, LLC. (Odin Mobile), of Rockville, Maryland, (collectively "Applicants") seeking a transfer of control of Global Connection to Odin Mobile. Notice of the application was published in <a href="The Daily Record">The Daily Record</a>, Omaha, Nebraska, on May 29, 2017. No protests were filed; therefore, this application is processed pursuant to the Commission's Rule of Modified Procedure.

#### OPINION AND FINDINGS

# The Parties:

Global Connection is a Georgia Corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia with its principal place of business in Norcross, Georgia. Global Connection is a wholly owned subsidiary of Global Holdings. Global Connection was granted authority to be a reseller and facilities based UNE-P local carrier of exchange and interexchange telecommunications services within the State of Nebraska on August 24, 2004, in Docket C-3205. Global Connections was designated as an ETC to provide Lifeline services on a wireless basis by the Commission on March 5, 2013. Global Connections is a provider of prepaid wireless services in 24 territories, prepaid wireline interexchange and long distance services in 20 states, a wireline ETC for low income Lifeline services in 12 states, and a wireless ETC for low income Lifeline services in 24 territories.

Global Holdings is a Georgia Corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Georgia, with its principal place of business in Norcross, Georgia. Global Holdings serves as a Holding Company for Global Connection and does not provide telecommunications services. The majority interest in Global Holdings is held by L6 Global LLC (L6), a Georgia limited liability

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company. Through interests in L6, 71 percent of the equity in Global Connection is held by Milestone Partners, a private equity firm based in Radnor, Pennsylvania.

Odin Mobile is a Maryland limited liability company with its principal place of business in Rockville, Maryland. No other entity owns a ten percent or greater interest in the company. Odin Mobile wireless network infrastructure and transmission facilities through T-Mobile on a wholesale basis to provide wireless services to consumers. Odin Mobile has historically provided services and phones to blind and/or visually impaired customers. Odin Mobile is primarily owned by Paul Greene, a United States Citizen also based in Rockville, Maryland. Greene is the sole investor who owns more than 10% of Prepaid Wireless Wholesale, LLC, (PPWW) a Maryland limited liability company. PPWW is financially sound with zero debt or outside investment. It participates in the Lifeline consortium to lobby for favorable rules and regulations. PPWW is a bidirectional hub between carriers and wholesale partners, offering a variety of services.

# Description of the Transaction:

Pursuant to the Stock Purchase Agreement ("Purchase Agreement") executed among Odin Mobile, Global Holdings, Global Connection, Odin Mobiles plans to acquire seventy-five (75) percent of stock of Global Connection. According to the terms of the Agreement, Global Connection will become a majority owned direct subsidiary of Odin Mobile. Ultimate (indirect) control will be transferred to the ninety-nine percent interest holder in Odin Mobile, Paul Greene. Global Holdings will remain the minority interest holder in Global Connection (twenty-five percent). There will be no change to the ownership of Global Holdings. Applicants the proposed transaction will not result discontinuance, reduction, loss, or impairment of service to customers in Nebraska or elsewhere. Applicants seek to consummate the proposed transaction as soon as practicable.

Applicants indicate the proposed transaction will serve the public interest by bringing the managerial, technical, and financial resources of Odin Mobile and its affiliates to Global Connection. According to Applicants, combining resources will enhance their ability to provide high quality wireline and wireless services, including Lifeline to low income customers. The Applicants assert the transaction will advance economic efficiency for Global Connection allowing Global Connection to strengthen its competitive position and expand its offerings to a broader base.

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Applicants further state the proposed transaction will have no impact on Global Connection's existing customers as Global Connection will continue to be managed by the same officers and personnel at the same rates and on the same terms. The transfer will occur at the holding company level and customers will continue to be served by Global Connection pursuant to its existing authorizations, rates, terms and conditions. The only change resulting from the proposed transaction will be that Global Connection will be a direct, majority owned subsidiary of Odin Mobile.

Based on the evidence, we find the application to be fair and reasonable and in the public interest. The application should be granted.

## ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that Application No. C-4930 be, and it is hereby, granted.

ENTERED AND MADE EFFECTIVE at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 5th day of July, 2017.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

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//s//Frank E. Landis

//s//Tim Schram

Chairman

ATTEST:

Deputy Director