



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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CHAIRWOMAN ROSENWORCEL TO HOST A LISTENING SESSION CONCERNING INCARCERATED PEOPLE'S COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

WC Docket Nos. 23-62 and 12-375

On February 1, 2024, Federal Communications Commission Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel will host a listening session in Charleston, South Carolina, to hear from formerly incarcerated people and their loved ones about their experiences using incarcerated people's communications services (IPCS). Participants will explain the critical importance of affordable communications services to incarcerated people, as the Commission works to implement the Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act of 2022 (Martha Wright-Reed Act). The purpose of this listening session is to obtain additional public comment in support of the Commission's ongoing efforts to ensure just and reasonable rates and charges for IPCS consumers.

The listening session will take place from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time at the City of North Charleston Cultural Arts Department, Park Circle Community Building, 4800 Park Circle, North Charleston, South Carolina 29405. The program agenda will include opening remarks from Chairwoman Rosenworcel and former Acting Chair and Commissioner Mignon Clyburn followed by a discussion with current and former IPCS consumers, providing the Commission with first-hand accounts. The listening session will be incorporated into the record of the above-captioned dockets.

On January 5, 2023, the President signed into law the Martha Wright-Reed Act, reflecting the efforts by multiple individuals and committed stakeholders over a number of years to comprehensively address the persistent problem of unreasonably high rates and charges incarcerated people and their families pay for communications services. Among other things, the Martha Wright-Reed Act expands the definition of payphone service in correctional institutions to encompass all advanced communications services, including audio or video communications services, regardless of the technology used, and requires the Commission to ensure that rates and charges for such services are just and reasonable. It also requires the Commission to adopt regulations necessary to implement the Martha Wright-Reed Act not earlier than 18 months and not later than 24 months after the date of its enactment. On March 16, 2023, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order, which began the process of implementing the Martha Wright-Reed Act. Stakeholders have filed comments and reply comments in response to the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. This listening session will complement and supplement the extensive record developed in response to that Notice.

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request.

Requests for accommodations should be submitted via e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or by calling the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice). Such requests should include a detailed description of the accommodation needed. In addition, please include a way for the Commission to contact the requester if more information is needed to fulfill the request. Last minute requests will be accepted but may not be possible to accommodate.

Additional information about the Commission's efforts in connection with IPCS can be found at: <https://www.fcc.gov/general/ics-data-collections>. To contact or request a meeting with Commission staff working on the Commission's IPCS proceeding, please contact Ahuva Battams at ahuva.battams@fcc.gov or at (202) 418-1565.

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