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**PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION**

**November 3, 2015**

Jeff Derouen  
Executive Director  
Kentucky Public Service Commission  
211 Sower Boulevard  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Re: Notification of Global Connection Inc. of America and Budget PrePay, Inc.  
d/b/a Budget Phone Regarding a Transfer of Customers

Dear Mr. Derouen,

Global Connection Inc. of America (GCIOA or the Company) and Budget PrePay, Inc. d/b/a Budget Phone (Budget and, together with GCIOA, the Parties) hereby notify the Kentucky Public Service Commission (Commission) of their intention to transfer certain Budget Kentucky wireline customers (Customers) to GCIOA. For the Commission's records, the Parties provide the following information:

**I. THE PARTIES**

**A. Global Connection Inc. of America**

GCIOA is a Georgia corporation located at 5555 Oakbrook Parkway Suite 620, Norcross, GA 30093. The Company provides prepaid wireline local exchange and long distance services

to residential customers in twenty-six states.<sup>1</sup> GCIOA also provides wireless services in twenty-four states. The Company is designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) to provide Lifeline services to low-income consumers on a wireline basis in seven states and on a wireless basis in twenty-four states. GCIOA also provides Lifeline services in additional states through resale of AT&T Lifeline services. GCIOA was granted authority by the Commission to provide intrastate telecommunications services in Kentucky on September 2, 1999 in Case No. TFS 1999-01021. The Company was designated by the Commission as an ETC to provide wireless Lifeline services on August 8, 2013 in Case No. 2013-00051. GCIOA is qualified to do business in Kentucky as a foreign corporation.

**B. Budget PrePay Inc., d/b/a Budget Phone**

Budget, a Louisiana corporation, is headquartered at 1325 Barksdale Blvd., Suite 200, Bossier City, LA 71111. Budget provides prepaid local exchange and long distance services to customers in twenty-five states.<sup>2</sup> Budget has been designated as an ETC to provide Lifeline services to low-income consumers on a wireline basis in 14 states and on a wireless basis in 34 states and Puerto Rico. Budget holds authority to provide intrastate wireline telecommunications services in Kentucky under Utility ID Nos. 5050350 (CLEC) and 5153200 (IXC). Budget was designated by the Commission as an ETC to provide Lifeline services on a wireline basis on December 8, 2009 in Docket No. 2009-00269 and on a wireless basis on December 8, 2011 in Docket No. 2011-00169. Following consummation of the Transaction, Budget will retain its Kentucky authorizations and continue to provide competitive services.

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<sup>1</sup> GCIOA holds domestic interstate and international section 214 authority from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

<sup>2</sup> Budget holds domestic interstate and international section 214 authority from the FCC.

## II. DESIGNATED CONTACTS

Correspondence or other materials concerning this Notification should be directed to:

Joshua T. Guyan  
Winafred Brantl  
Kelley Drye & Warren LLP  
3050 K Street NW, Suite 400  
Washington, D.C. 20007  
Tel: (202) 342-8566  
Fax: (202) 342-8451  
Email: [jguyan@kelleydrye.com](mailto:jguyan@kelleydrye.com)

with copies to:

Dee DiCicco  
Chief Compliance Officer /VP Operations  
**Global Connection Inc. of America**  
5555 Oakbrook Parkway Suite 620  
Norcross, GA 30093  
Fax: (888) 315-2669  
Email: [ddicicco@gcioa.com](mailto:ddicicco@gcioa.com)

Robert Daniel Hyde III  
Robin Enkey  
**Budget PrePay, Inc.**  
1325 Barksdale Blvd., Ste 200  
Bossier City, LA 71111  
Fax: (318) 671-5421  
Email: [robine@budgetprepay.com](mailto:robine@budgetprepay.com)

## II. DESCRIPTION OF THE TRANSACTION

Pursuant to the terms of an asset purchase agreement dated August 21, 2015, (the Agreement), Budget intends to assign approximately 8,700 wireline customers to GCIOA, some of which are residents of Kentucky (Transaction). These Customers currently receive local exchange and intrastate/interstate long distance services from Budget.<sup>3</sup> GCIOA will not acquire any other assets of Budget and will not assume any of Budget's pre-closing liabilities or obligations.

Following approval of the proposed Transaction, GCIOA will provide the transferred customers with services that meet or exceed the plans they currently enjoy without any immediate (or near-term) increase to their monthly rates. Indeed, a significant number of the

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<sup>3</sup> A number of these customers receive Lifeline services through Budget. Post-close, they will continue to receive these benefits through GCIOA, which provides Lifeline services both pursuant to its own designations and through resale of AT&T Lifeline services.

Customers will enjoy lower monthly rates. GCIOA will file revisions to its Kentucky tariffs insofar as necessary to achieve this. If any future changes to the rates, terms and conditions of service are made, those changes will be made consistent with Commission requirements.

To ensure a seamless transition and avoid customer confusion or inconvenience, the Parties are providing affected customers with written notice at least thirty (30) days prior to the transfer. A sample of this notice, which complies fully with the requirements of section 64.1120(e) of the FCC's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 64.1120(e), is attached as **Exhibit 1**. The closing of the transaction will be contingent upon the receipt of required regulatory approvals from the FCC and state commissions.

### **III. PUBLIC INTEREST ANALYSIS**

The proposed Transaction is in the public interest. Upon consummation, Global will provide the Customers with the same high-quality competitive local exchange and interexchange services previously delivered by Budget. At the same time, the Transaction will enable Budget and Global to more effectively pursue their respective business plans. This, in turn, will allow each company to compete more efficiently, to the ultimate benefit of consumers throughout their operating territories.

The Transaction has no adverse effects for the affected customers. Consistent with FCC and Commission rules, these Customers have received written notice well in advance of the proposed transfer and may choose to remain with GCIOA or change to a new provider. Budget and GCIOA will work together to ensure that the affected Customers experience a smooth, virtually seamless, transition.

**IV. CONCLUSION**

The Parties respectfully request that the Commission note the transaction for its records.

Please contact the undersigned if there are any questions regarding this filing.

Respectfully submitted,

**BUDGET PREPAY, INC. D/B/A BUDGET PHONE**

Robert Daniel Hyde III  
President/CEO

**Budget PrePay, Inc. d/b/a Budget Phone**

1325 Barksdale Blvd., Ste 200  
Bossier City, LA 71111  
Fax: (318) 671-5421  
Email: [dhyde@budgetprepay.com](mailto:dhyde@budgetprepay.com)

**GLOBAL CONNECTION INC. OF AMERICA**



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Dee DiCicco

Chief Compliance Officer /VP Operations

**Global Connection Inc. of America**

5555 Oakbrook Parkway Suite 620

Norcross, GA 30093

Fax: (888) 315-2669

Email: [ddicicco@gcioa.com](mailto:ddicicco@gcioa.com)

**EXHIBIT 1**

**Sample Customer Notice**



Name  
address  
address2  
city, state zip

Re: <Insert BTN>

**IMPORTANT NOTICE  
REGARDING A CHANGE TO YOUR TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE**

Dear <Insert Name>:

We are pleased to share some exciting news about your telecommunications service provider. Beginning on or after Oct. 25, 2015, your telecommunications service, formerly provided by Budget Prepay, Inc. d/b/a Budget Phone (Budget), will be provided by Global Connection Inc. of America (GCIOA).<sup>1</sup> Based in Atlanta, Georgia, GCIOA is a licensed Competitive Local Exchange Carrier (CLEC) in 26 states, providing a range of local and long distance services to residential customers.

GCIOA intends to continue the fine level of customer service you expect and have received from Budget Phone. Every effort will be made to ensure that this transition is as seamless as possible.<sup>2</sup>

**No action on your part is required.**

Your service will not be affected. You will continue to use the same telephone number you currently have and there will be no fees applied in connection with the transfer of your service to GCIOA. Importantly, GCIOA will provide you with services that meet or exceed those you currently receive while ensuring that the transfer does not result in an increase to your regular monthly recurring charges.<sup>3</sup> Notice of any future changes in rates, terms and conditions of service will be provided to you as required by law.<sup>4</sup> If you decide that GCIOA is not the right provider for you, you have the right to choose another provider. If you choose to switch to an alternate provider, you may incur a fee from that carrier for the transfer. If you do not choose an alternate provider prior to Oct. 25, 2015, your service will be transferred to GCIOA.

Please note that if you have placed a "freeze" on your Budget service to prevent unauthorized transfer to another carrier, it will be automatically lifted to implement the transfer to GCIOA. You will need to contact GCIOA, or your alternative choice of a new local phone company, to re-establish freeze protection after the transfer.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the change to your home telephone account, you can call GCIOA at any point at 1-877-895-1191 or, prior to the transfer, call Budget Phone at 1-888-424-5588. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have. We look forward to serving you!

Sincerely,

Dave Skogen, CEO  
Global Connection Inc. of America  
Customer Service: 1-877-895-1191  
E-Mail: [info@globalconnectioninc.com](mailto:info@globalconnectioninc.com)

Danny Hyde, CEO  
Budget Prepay, Inc. d/b/a Budget Phone  
Customer Service: 1-888-424-5588

<sup>1</sup> The transfer is contingent upon approval by the Federal Communications Commission and by state commissions, where required.

<sup>2</sup> Customers receiving Lifeline services from Budget will continue to be enrolled to receive Lifeline services from GCIOA.

<sup>3</sup> Many Customers will actually enjoy lower rates for their services and GCIOA will issue billing credits that offset any possible increases.

<sup>4</sup> **Notice for Tennessee Customers:** Consistent with state law, in the event that GCIOA proposes to make changes to your rates within a period of ninety (90) days following the transfer of your service to GCIOA, the Company will provide you with at least thirty days' advance notice of the proposed change(s).