

## Transaction Compliance Report

MB Docket No. 10-56

### NBCUniversal Non-Profit News Partnerships

for the period of July 29, 2014 through January 28, 2015



January 28, 2015

This report provides the information required by Condition XI.5.f of Appendix A (the “Condition”) to the *Transaction Order*<sup>1</sup> regarding NBCUniversal’s non-profit news partnership arrangements during the six month period that began on July 29, 2014 and ended on January 28, 2015 (the “Reporting Period”).

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#### Online Copy

A copy of this report is available on the websites maintained by each of the stations that comprise the NBC Owned Television Stations division (e.g. <http://www.nbcnewyork.com>).

<sup>1</sup> In the Matter of Applications of Comcast Corporation, General Electric Company and NBC Universal, Inc. for Consent to Assign Licenses and Transfer Control of Licensees, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 26 FCC Rcd 4238 (2011) (as amended by an Erratum released on March 9, 2011) (*Transaction Order*).

## Background

As required by the Condition, and as previously reported, four of the 10 stations in the NBCUniversal Owned Television Stations (“NBCOTS”) division established and maintain cooperative arrangements with locally-focused, non-profit news organizations: NBC 4 New York with ProPublica; NBC 5 Chicago with *The Chicago Reporter*; NBC10 Philadelphia with WHY?; and NBC4 Southern California with KPCC – Southern California Public Radio. These agreements, in addition to the ongoing relationship between NBC 7 San Diego and the Voice of San Diego, satisfy the Condition’s requirement that half of the NBCOTS stations establish cooperative arrangements with non-profit news organizations.

Beyond the Condition’s requirements, these stations have also established partnerships with other non-profit news organizations. NBC 4 New York has a collaborative arrangement with WNYC, the local public radio station in New York. NBC4 Southern California has partnered with the Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR), a non-profit journalism organization with numerous news outlet partners that either partner with CIR or feature its reporting on their platforms, as well as with Fair Warning, an online, non-profit publication that provides public interest journalism on issues of health, safety and corporate conduct, and Maplight, a nonpartisan research organization that researches and compiles data about campaign contributions. As previously reported, NBC 5 Chicago and NBC10 Philadelphia have been working with non-profit organizations in their markets to enhance their coverage of local news.

Other NBCOTS and Telemundo-owned stations also have partnered with non-profit organizations to support their local news coverage. For instance, NBC’s Bay Area station, KNTV, has established a relationship with CIR, and KXAS and KXTX, the NBC and Telemundo stations in Dallas-Fort Worth, have partnered with the local PBS affiliate, KERA, on coverage of statewide political debates and a news series on topics of interest to Texas voters. And, during 2013, the NBC owned station in Miami-Ft. Lauderdale, NBC 6 South Florida, established a partnership with the Florida Center for Investigative Reporting.

These collaborations between the stations and non-profit partners – which involve sharing data, research, investigative resources, and production assistance – have resulted in more than 50 investigations since the launch of the partnerships. They have also generated dozens of on-air and online news reports for both the stations and the news partners’ radio stations and websites. Key collaborations during the Reporting Period are described below.

## NBC 4 New York / WNBC and ProPublica

The NBC 4 New York relationship with ProPublica continues to generate impactful stories spanning health care, labor, business, education, and criminal justice issues affecting the New York area. Each news organization's audience has benefitted from the added investigative depth afforded by the collaborative public interest journalism resulting from this partnership. For instance, NBC 4 New York investigative reporter Chris Glorioso continues to cover health care policy issues in collaboration with ProPublica Health Care reporter Charles Ornstein. Mr. Ornstein has won numerous awards for his investigations covering health care and the pharmaceutical industry.

Due in part to the success of its ProPublica partnership, NBC 4 New York has sought to collaborate with other non-profit media entities. For example, in the last two quarters, the NBC 4 New York I-Team of investigative reporters collaborated with WNYC Radio on at least three stories.<sup>2</sup>

### Collaboration in Practice

*Restraints and Seclusions in Public Schools.* NBC 4 New York I-Team reporter Pei-Sze Cheng worked with ProPublica's Heather Vogel to investigate the frequency of severe disciplinary actions such as handcuffing small children or locking students in rooms.

The investigation found that many large school districts were under-reporting their use of restraints. For instance, the report revealed that the New York City Department of Education was underreporting these types of incidents by excluding cases in which students had to be handcuffed by the NYPD. Because police officers oversee most serious disciplinary cases in New York City schools, the number of reported incidents was lower than actual occurrences. Just one day after this report, the City of New York announced that changes would be made in the City's policy on restraining students. The story was broadcast on September 30, 2014 at 11pm. A version was also posted online.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> SchoolBook Service Walks Parents Through Admissions Process (Oct. 8, 2014), available online at <http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/SchoolBook-WNYC-Admissions-Middle-School-Email-Service-277493551.html>; Ann Givens, NYC 2050: Summers in New York City Will Feel Like Alabama (Oct. 13, 2014), available online at <http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/nyc-2050-climate-change-new-york-city-rising-tides-flooding--279023091.html>; Low-Level Suspects Seriously Hurt: Report (Aug. 21, 2014), available online at <http://www.nbcnewyork.com/video/#!/investigations/Low-Level-Suspects-Seriously-Hurt--Report/269146291>; Chris Glorioso, I-Team: In NJ, Cops Sue Own Departments More Than Civilians (Jun. 29, 2014), available online at <http://www.nbcnewyork.com/investigations/new-jersey-police-lawsuits-cops-suing-cops-litigation-263522891.html>.

<sup>3</sup> I-Team: 5-Year-Old Handcuffed in School (Sep. 30, 2014) available online at <http://www.nbcnewyork.com/on-air/as-seen-on/I-Team-Investigation--5-Year-Old-Handcuffed-in-School-New-York-277692451.html>; Pei-Sze Cheng, Gabrielle Ewing, and Ann Givens, School Policy on Restraining Students Will Change: de Blasio (Oct. 1, 2014), available online at <http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/public-schools-restraints-soft-handcuffs-seclusion-277802161.html>.

*Affordable Care Act.* NBC 4 New York partnered with ProPublica to produce a story revealing expensive changes hidden in New Jersey Affordable Care Act health plans. The NBC 4 New York/ ProPublica investigation showed that insurance premiums have generally increased since adoption of the Affordable Care Act, despite more competition among insurers, and that out-of-pocket costs – especially for emergency room visits – are rising much more rapidly in New Jersey than in the rest of the country. NBC 4 New York aired the story three days before the deadline for Affordable Care Act participants to declare changes to their coverage and provided consumers with a tool to compare the prices and benefits of hundreds of plans available in New Jersey and throughout the country. The story aired on December 12, 2014 at 6pm. The same day, NBCNewYork.com published an online version of the story, along with links to the ProPublica “Obamacare Compare” online tool.<sup>4</sup>

### **NBC 5 Chicago / WMAQ and *The Chicago Reporter***

*The Chicago Reporter* continues to take advantage of NBC 5's online presence to promote online companion pieces. NBC 5 also takes advantage of the larger NBC partnership with ProPublica, airing stories based on ProPublica data and investigations. As previously reported, 2014 was a transition year for *The Chicago Reporter*. The magazine's new editors are placing a higher priority on the magazine's web presence and on generating more frequent investigations and stories by pushing more original content to the web. NBC 5 will seize this opportunity to increase news coverage designed for the station's Internet audience. NBC5 looks forward to continuing this partnership, as well as the collaboration with the BGA, into the future.

### **Additional News Partnerships**

In addition, NBC 5 has continued to collaborate with the Better Government Association (BGA), a non-profit watchdog that investigates allegations of waste, fraud, and corruption in local and state government.

### **NBC10 Philadelphia / WCAU and WHYH**

As previously reported, NBC 10 Philadelphia and WHYH continue to focus their partnership on cross-promoting content. Over the course of a month, as many as 40 articles from WHYH's Newsworks.org website are showcased on NBC10.com, while a dozen or so WHYH stories are promoted on-air during NBC10's afternoon shows.

Articles by Newsworks.org staffers are featured on NBC10.com and its mobile sites and apps smartphone and tablets on a daily basis. These articles feature links designed to drive NBC10 digital readers to WHYH content located on Newsworks.org. In addition, at least once a week, Newsworks.org content is promoted by a NBC10 staffer on-air. That promotion includes a description of the content as well as an explanation that it is from

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<sup>4</sup> Chris Glorioso and Evan Stulberger, I-Team: Despite More Competition, Obamacare Plans get More Expensive in NJ (Dec. 15, 2014), available online at <http://www.nbcnewyork.com/investigations/obamacare-new-jersey-affordable-care-act-health-insurance-premiums-285644451.html>; Comparing 2015 Obamacare Plans,” (Dec. 4, 2014), available online at <http://projects.propublica.org/aca-enrollment/>.

NBC10's "partners at Newsworks.org." Over the course of a month, as many as 40 pieces of Newsworks.org content are showcased in NBC10's digital products and approximately one dozen are promoted on-air.

In addition, NBC10.com promotes Newsworks.org content on Facebook and Twitter in order to raise Newsworks.org's traffic and awareness among NBC10 359,000 "likes" and 149,000 "followers." In addition, the social media editors at both organizations often consult with one another to ensure that their goals are aligned.

#### **Additional News Partnerships**

In addition to the partnership with WHY? Newsworks.org, NBC10.com features content from ProPublica, and the station has entered into an additional partnership with PublicSource.org, a non-profit investigative news organization that focuses on Pennsylvania issues ([www.publicsource.org](http://www.publicsource.org)). In addition, NBC10 is continuing to work on developing journalistic partnerships with non-profit organizations including Planphilly.com, a site dedicated to covering design, planning, and development issues in Philadelphia, and PhiladelphiaNeighborhoods.com, a hyperlocal online publication hosted by Temple University's Department of Journalism.

#### **NBC4 Southern California / KNBC and KPCC**

NBC4 Southern California continues to benefit from KPCC's investigative resources, while KPCC continues to augment its live coverage of breaking news with NBC4 reporters providing frequent on-air reports for KPCC's listeners. KPCC airs content from NBC4 almost daily and identifies "our partners at NBC4" in its on-air reporting.

#### **Collaboration in Practice**

*Inglewood Schools.* NBC4 Southern California and KPCC recently collaborated on an investigation of poor conditions in the schools of the Inglewood Unified School District. The investigation resulted in an on-air report on NBC4 at 5pm on November 5, 2014.<sup>5</sup> The story was also carried on KPCC radio and on the NBC4 and KPCC websites.<sup>6</sup> Only

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<sup>5</sup> Michael Larkin and Lolita Lopez, Rats, Filthy Restrooms among Problems at Inglewood Schools (Nov. 7, 2014), available online at <http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Rats-and-Filthy-Restrooms-Among-Problems-at-Inglewood-Schools-281896401.html>.

<sup>6</sup> Karen Foshay and Paul Glickman, Inglewood Schools: Rats, Damage despite Millions in State Funds (Nov. 6, 2014), available online at <http://www.scpr.org/news/2014/11/06/47754/hard-times-at-inglewood-unified-school-district/>.

days after these reports aired, the District announced steps to clean up the schools.<sup>7</sup>

*Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Refunds.* Through the partnership with KPCC, NBC4 was able to expand the reach of its reporting on problems with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's rebate program. The story aired on NBC4 at 5pm and 6pm on December 18, 2014.<sup>8</sup> Because the story was also carried on KPCC's radio broadcast, it was able to reach many more consumers throughout the Los Angeles market.<sup>9</sup>

*Miramonte Elementary School.* As reported in the July 2012 news partnerships report, NBC4 Southern California and KPCC have collaborated on coverage of a major child abuse scandal involving Miramonte Elementary School in the Los Angeles Unified School District ("LAUSD"). Throughout both organizations' extensive coverage, NBC4 and KPCC reporters shared information and helped each other investigate the LAUSD's efforts to withhold information during a lawsuit brought against it. A report of the settlement of the case was reported on NBC4 at 5pm on November 21, 2014,<sup>10</sup> and by KPCC on the same day.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Lotita Lopez and Ernesto Torres, *Inglewood Cleaning up Schools* (Nov. 10, 2014), available online at [http://www.nbclosangeles.com/on-air/as-seen-on/Inglewood-Cleaning-Up-Schools\\_Los-Angeles-282234411.html](http://www.nbclosangeles.com/on-air/as-seen-on/Inglewood-Cleaning-Up-Schools_Los-Angeles-282234411.html); *Inglewood High School Cleanup Follows KPCC Report* (Nov. 10, 2014), available online at <http://www.scpr.org/news/2014/11/10/47981/inglewood-high-school-cleanup-follows-kpcc-report/>.

<sup>8</sup> Amy Coral and Randy Mac, *DWP Customers Complain about Slow Rebate Program*, (Dec. 18, 2014), available online at <http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/DWP-customers-missing-out-on-savings-because-of-slow-solar-rebate-program-286284821.html>.

<sup>9</sup> NBC4's *LADWP Solar Panel Rebate Investigation* (Dec. 18, 2014), available online at <http://www.scpr.org/programs/take-two/2014/12/18/40820/nbc4-s-ladwp-solar-panel-rebate-investigation/>; Amy Corral and Randy Mac, *DWP Customers Complain about Slow Rebate Program*, (Dec. 18, 2014), available online at <http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/DWP-customers-missing-out-on-savings-because-of-slow-solar-rebate-program-286284821.html>.

<sup>10</sup> John Cadiz and Jason Kandel, *Record \$139M Settlement Reached in Miramonte School Sex Abuse Case* (Nov. 21, 2014), available online at <http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Jury-Selection-Continues-in-Miramonte-Case-283136071.html>.

<sup>11</sup> Karen Foshay and Paul Glickman, *\$140M Settlement in Miramonte Civil Suit against LAUSD* (Nov. 21, 2014), available online at <http://www.scpr.org/news/2014/11/21/48132/140m-settlement-in-miramonte-civil-suit-against-la/>.

### Additional News Partnerships

*Fair Warning.* In 2014, NBC4 Southern California also collaborated with Fair Warning, a non-profit new organization focused on health, safety, and corporate conduct. For instance, NBC4 covered a Fair Warning report about the efficacy of ads by the alcoholic beverage industry advising consumers to drink responsibly. The story aired on NBC4 on November 18, 2014 at 5pm.<sup>12</sup> NBC4 is in discussions to do more collaborations with Fair Warning in 2015.

*Maplight.* NBC4 Southern California also worked with Maplight to create an online tool for the 2014 elections that allowed people to search and view candidate information and the money behind them.<sup>13</sup>

*Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR).* In the last six months, NBC4 Southern California collaborated on two investigative projects with CIR. The first examined the Los Angeles Sheriff Department's plans to gather and record biometric data from individuals questioned as suspects of crimes. This story aired at 5pm on September 24, 2014.<sup>14</sup> The second story revealed the biggest water users among government agencies that have direct influence over water policy. The water waste project aired at 11pm on October 6, 2014<sup>15</sup> and was published online on October 9, 2014.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Stuart Silverstein, They Say 'Drink Responsibly,' But What Does It Mean? (Nov. 18, 2014), available online at <http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/They-Say-Drink-Responsibly-But-What-Does-It-Mean-283152931.html>; Conan Nolan and Ernesto Torres, Is the Alcohol. 'Drink Responsibly' Tagline Effective? (Nov. 18, 2014), available online at <http://www.nbclosangeles.com/on-air/as-seen-on/Is-the-Alcohol-Industry-s-Drink-Responsibly-Tagline-Effective-Los-Angeles-283144461.html>.

<sup>13</sup> See <http://www.nbclosangeles.com/on-air/as-seen-on/Test-Page-Voters-Edge-Election-2014-277619082.html>.

<sup>14</sup> Carolyn Johnson and Phil Drechsler, Outrage Over Biometric ID System's Quiet Rollout (Sep. 24, 2014), available online at <http://www.nbclosangeles.com/on-air/as-seen-on/Outrage-Over-Biometric-ID-System-s-Quiet-Rollout-Los-Angeles-277018861.html>; Ali Winston, LA County to Collect More Personal Data Without Public Notice (Sep. 24, 2014), available online at <http://www.revealnews.org/article-legacy/la-county-to-collect-more-personal-data-without-public-notice/>.

<sup>15</sup> Lance Williams and Katharine Mieszkowski. Water Officials Aren't Following Own Call for Conservation (Oct. 9, 2014), available online at <http://www.nbclosangeles.com/investigations/California-Water-Officials-Drought-Conservation-278236801.html>.

<sup>16</sup> California Water Officials Aren't Following Own Call for Conservation (Oct. 9, 2014), available online at <http://www.nbclosangeles.com/investigations/series/drought-water-waste/California-Water-Wasters-278363461.html>; Lance Williams and Katharine Mieszkowski, California Water Officials Aren't Following Own Call for Conservation," (Oct. 6, 2014), available online at <https://beta.cironline.org/reports/california-water-officials-arent-following-own-call-for-conservation/>.

## NBC Bay Area / KNTV and the Center for Investigative Reporting

NBC Bay Area has an ongoing partnership with CIR. In the first year of the partnership, KNTV and the CIR have established good communication among their respective reporters, producers and management, including a weekly call to discuss story progress and new ideas.

### Collaboration in Practice

*H1B Visas and the Tech Industry.* NBC Bay Area's Investigative Unit and CIR undertook an investigation to answer questions about a visa program set up to recruit foreign workers to the United States. The investigation probed whether the program is a necessary business model for a quickly changing high tech economy or a form of indentured servitude in the high tech age. The story aired at 6pm and 11pm on November 3, 2014<sup>17</sup> and was posted online. CIR also created a page entitled "Techsploitation" where it aggregated stories related to the investigation.<sup>18</sup>

*California Day Care.* Early in 2014, NBC Bay Area and CIR collaborated on a series of reports on California's inspection of day care centers and the lack of information available to parents.<sup>19</sup> NBC Bay Area and CIR spent months creating a database so that parents can easily access the inspection records.<sup>20</sup> As a result of the investigation, California

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<sup>17</sup> Stephen Stock, Julie Putnam, Scott Pham, and Jeremy Carroll, Silicon Valley's 'Body Shop' Secret: Highly Educated Foreign Workers Treated like Indentured Servants (Nov. 4, 2014), available online at <http://www.nbcbayarea.com/investigations/Silicon-Valleys-Body-Shop-Secret-280567322.html>.

<sup>18</sup> Techsploitation, (Dec. 5, 2014), available online at <https://beta.cironline.org/investigations/techsploitation/>; see, e.g., Matt Smith, Silicon Valley Tech Workers Locked in Jobs with Dubious Legal Tactics (Oct. 31, 2014), available online at <http://www.revealnews.org/article-legacy/silicon-valley-tech-workers-locked-in-jobs-with-dubious-legal-tactics/>.

<sup>19</sup> See, e.g., Katherine Mieszkowski, California Lags Behind in Child Care Oversight (Jan. 31, 2014), available online at <http://cironline.org/reports/california%E2%80%99s-lack-online-child-care-records-leaves-parents-dark-5819>; Katherine Mieszkowski, California's Lack of Online Child Care Records Leaves Parents in Dark (Jan. 30, 2014), available online at <http://www.nbcbayarea.com/investigations/Californias-lack-of-online-child-care-records.html>.

<sup>20</sup> Julie Putnam, Scott Pham, Stephen Stock, Mark Villarreal, and Felipe Escamilla, CA Day Care Records: Investigative Unit Puts Them Online (Aug. 11, 2014), available online at <http://www.nbcbayarea.com/investigations/260021571.html>; Searchable Daycare Records, <http://www.nbcbayarea.com/brchannel/Searchable-Daycare-Records-Santa-Clara-and-Napa-Counties-260040651.html>; CA Daycare Records: Investigative Unit Puts Them Online (May 20, 2014), available online at [http://www.nbcbayarea.com/on-air/as-seen-on/CA-Daycare-Records -Investigative-Unit-Puts-Them-Online\\_Bay-Area-260065131.html](http://www.nbcbayarea.com/on-air/as-seen-on/CA-Daycare-Records- -Investigative-Unit-Puts-Them-Online_Bay-Area-260065131.html); Day Care Records: Investigative Unit Puts Them Online (Aug. 11, 2014), available online at <http://www.nbcbayarea.com/on-air/as-seen-on/CA-Daycare-Records -Investigative->

lawmakers have fundamentally changed the way parents can access data and information on daycare. The story on these changes aired at 6pm and 11pm on December 22, 2014.<sup>21</sup>

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[Unit-Puts-Them-Online\\_Bay-Area-260065131](#); Katherine Mieskwoski and Jennifer LaFleur, Day Care Center Records for Alameda, Contra Costa Counties Now Online (Jan. 15, 2015), available online at <http://www.revealnews.org/article/day-care-center-records-for-alameda-contra-costa-counties-now-online/>.

<sup>21</sup> Stephen Stock, Julie Putnam, and Felipe Escamilla. Big Changes for California Day Care Oversight,” (Dec. 22, 2014), available online at <http://www.nbcbayarea.com/investigations/Big-Changes-for-California-Day-Care-Oversight-286615441.html>.