



**MINNEAPOLIS**  
Television Network

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Anna Columba Reyes**  
Secretary

**Michael D. Reed**  
Treasurer

To: The greater community of the Minneapolis Telecommunications Network  
From: Executive Director and Board Chair  
Date: September 15, 2016  
Re: MTN response to recent emails

We wanted to address a number of emails that have been floating around lately. Unfortunately, these messages have started to become a distraction, as we look to the future of public access for all residents of Minneapolis.

### BOARD MEMBERS

**Oral Sledge**

**Lamarr Scott**

**Mulki Hussein**

**Jon Samuelson**

As Executive Director and Board Chair of the Minneapolis Telecommunications Network, we are committed to building a vibrant democracy in which all share social, cultural and economic vitality through media training, public access and unique programming. Our Board efforts to revitalize MTN equipment, training, leadership and operations started several months ago. With the opportunity to examine every element of MTN, we discovered that MTN was not fulfilling its full potential and that some elements of our business were broken. We also became aware that our policies were confusing and in some incidents MTN had unfairly treated a few producers. Many changes have been implemented to address these concerns.

We believe our actions will make MTN an asset for the city of Minneapolis and a voice for all of our communities. A few vocal producers believe we have not adequately addressed their personal issues. We have spent hundreds of hours in discussions in formal meetings or individual conversations and email exchanges with these producers. Yet they continue to barrage us with emails, sometimes three to five times a day, asking irrelevant questions and making false accusations. Recent correspondence with the City Council about their personal complaints requires that we correct their allegations.

We have been accused of violating the open meeting laws. As a public nonprofit, MTN has complied with the requirement to post notice five days before all Board related business meetings. We have invited the public to our Board meetings and posted the meeting records. Although, not required by the statute, we have also allowed the public to make comments at our meetings. We will continue to allow public comments at a designated time, following Robert's Rules of Order.

We believe many of the governance accusations were made from the misinterpretation of erroneous documents and versions of our bylaws that were never passed. To clarify our governance structure and the requirements of a public nonprofit we have posted our current articles of incorporation and bylaws



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on our webpage. We have also implemented a new grievance policy and will post the request for action form on our website. We believe we have devoted enough time to the previously stated concerns.

Community media centers throughout the country have reached a pivotal juncture. What started as a way to provide access for discussion, information and connections between communities has become an important platform to increase civic and economic equity. With a consensus inclusive strategic planning process, our Board is leading efforts to improve our studios and services. In the next few months we will design a roadmap towards the future to create a 21st century media center to improve our ability to facilitate the interests of underrepresented people, build common understandings, and grow economic opportunities.

We recognize there are many challenges for us at MTN but we like to think of them as opportunities. As we move forward, we will invite our stakeholders to measure our progress and to hold us accountable. Please, stop by to find out more about MTN.

Tene Wells and Jon Thompson  
Executive Director and Board Chair  
MTN



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