

Nov. 19, 2020

### Starks Bemoans 'COVID-19 Divide'

FCC Commissioner Geoffrey Starks said today that the digital divide has morphed “into a monstrous COVID-19 divide.” In the text of a speech he delivered to the Media and Telecommunications Symposium organized by the Rainbow PUSH Coalition and the Citizenship Education Fund, Mr. Starks said that “this global pandemic finally laid bare that access to broadband, the devices needed to have a full online experience, and the skills needed to safely navigate the internet, are essential to our daily lives. And it also took this moment for us to more properly expand the narrative about who remains on the wrong side of the digital divide. It’s not just those in rural areas who lack access to broadband. In fact, three times as many households in urban areas remain unconnected as in rural areas. What’s more is that a disproportionate number of people of color do not have a home broadband connection compared to their counterparts.”

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