BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Cancellation by Florida Public Service Commission of Pay Telephone Certificate No. 5069 issued to Gang of Five, Inc. d/b/a Club Five for violation of Rule No. 25-4.0161, F.A.C., Regulatory Assessment Fees; Telecommunications Companies.

DOCKET NO. 001005-TC ORDER NO. PSC-00-1799-PAA-TC ISSUED: October 2, 2000

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

J. TERRY DEASON, Chairman
E. LEON JACOBS, JR.
LILA A. JABER
BRAULIO L. BAEZ

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AGENCY ACTION ORDER CANCELING PAY TELEPHONE CERTIFICATE INVOLUNTARILY

BY THE COMMISSION:

NOTICE is hereby given by the Florida Public Service Commission that the action discussed herein is preliminary in nature and will become final unless a person whose interests are substantially affected files a petition for a formal proceeding, pursuant to Rule 25-22.029, Florida Administrative Code.

Gang of Five, Inc. d/b/a Club Five (Club Five) currently holds Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 5069, issued by the Commission on February 12, 1997, authorizing the provision of pay telephone service. Club Five has not paid the Regulatory Assessment Fees [RAF(s)] required by Section 364.336, Florida Statutes, and Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code, for the years 1997 and 1999. Also, accrued statutory penalties and interest charges for the years 1997 and 1999 have not been paid.

Pursuant to Section 364.336, Florida Statutes, certificate holders must pay a minimum annual RAF of \$50 if the certificate was active during any portion of the calendar year. Pursuant to Rule 25-4.0161 (2), Florida Administrative Code, the form and applicable fees are due to the Florida Public Service Commission by January 30 of the subsequent year. All entities that apply for certification

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receive a copy of our rules governing pay telephone service. All applicants must attest that these rules have been received and understood by the applicant and an affidavit must be attached to the application in order for the application to be processed.

Pursuant to Section 350.113(4), Florida Statutes, the RAFs forms for the period of January 1 through December 31, are mailed to entities at least 45 days prior to the date that payment of the fees is due. Pursuant to Rule 25-4.0161(2), Florida Administrative Code, the form and applicable fees are due to the Florida Public Service Commission by January 30 of the subsequent year. However, pursuant to Section 350.113(4), Florida Statutes, the Commission shall provide at least a 45 days notice of the date the payment is due prior to the due date. Club Five was scheduled to remit its RAFs by January 31, 2000.

After the Division of Administration mailed a delinquent notice on February 29, 2000, the company returned the notice, along with a letter requesting cancellation of the certificate. On April 7, 2000 staff wrote the company and explained that we could not recommend a voluntary cancellation when there is an outstanding balance of RAFs. Commission records show that the company did not pay the 1997 and 1999 RAFs, along with statutory penalty and interest charges for both years. In addition the company owes the 2000 RAF.

As of the date of the vote, Club Five has not complied with Rule 25-24.514(2), Florida Administrative Code, which states:

- (2) If a certificated company desires to cancel its certificate, it shall request cancellation from the Commission in writing and shall provide the following with its request:
- (a) Statement of intent and date to pay Regulatory Assessment Fee.
- (b) Statement of why the certificate is proposed to be canceled.

Accordingly, since the company's certificate remains active until it requests a voluntary cancellation pursuant to Rule 25-24.514(2), Florida Administrative Code, or we involuntarily cancel the certificate, Club Five is responsible for the RAFs. As of the

date of this vote, Club Five continues to be in violation of our rules for non-payment of RAFs for 1997 and 1999.

For the reasons described above, pursuant to Rule 25-24.514(1)(b) and (c), Florida Administrative Code, we deny Club Five's request for voluntary cancellation of PATS Certificate No. 5069 for failure to comply with the provisions of 25-24.514(2), Florida Administrative Code. However, we find it appropriate to involuntarily cancel Club Five's certificate, effective on the date of the issuance of the consummating order, for failure to pay RAFs pursuant to Section 364.336, Florida Statutes, and Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code. Since Club Five is no longer in business, there would be no purpose in requiring Club Five to pay By involuntarily canceling Club Five's certificate, however, we would be able to track this company should it apply for another certificate with us in the future. The cancellation of the certificate and the closing of the Docket in no way diminishes Club Five's obligation to pay applicable delinquent RAFs, statutory penalties, and interest charges for 1997 and 1999.

Based on the foregoing, it is

ORDERED by the Florida Public Service Commission that we hereby deny Gang of Five, Inc. d/b/a Club Five's request for voluntary cancellation of PATS Certificate No. 5069. It is further

ORDERED that pursuant to Rule 25-24.514(1)(b) and [©], Florida Administrative Code, we hereby cancel Gang of Five, Inc. d/b/a Club Five's PATS Certificate No. 5069, effective on the date of issuance of the consummating order, for failure to comply with Rule 25-24.514(2), Florida Administrative Code; Section 364.336, Florida Statutes; and Rule 25-4.0161, Florida Administrative Code. It is further

ORDERED that Gang of Five, Inc. d/b/a Club Five remains obligated for all due and owing Regulatory Assessment Fees for the year(s) 1997 and 1999, as well as accrued statutory penalties and interest charges. It is further

ORDERED that the provisions of this Order, issued as proposed agency action, shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order unless an appropriate petition, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code, is received by the Director, Division of Records and Reporting, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the

close of business on the date set forth in the "Notice of Further Proceedings or Judicial Review" attached hereto. It is further

ORDERED that in the event this Order becomes final, this Docket shall be closed.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission, this <u>2nd</u> day of <u>October</u>, <u>2000</u>.

BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director

Division of Records and Reporting

(SEAL)

JAE

NOTICE OF FURTHER PROCEEDINGS OR JUDICIAL REVIEW

The Florida Public Service Commission is required by Section 120.569(1), Florida Statutes, to notify parties of any administrative hearing that is available under Section 120.57, Florida Statutes, as well as the procedures and time limits that apply. This notice should not be construed to mean all requests for an administrative hearing will be granted or result in the relief sought.

Mediation may be available on a case-by-case basis. If mediation is conducted, it does not affect a substantially interested person's right to a hearing.

The action proposed herein is preliminary in nature. Any person whose substantial interests are affected by the action proposed by this order may file a petition for a formal proceeding, in the form provided by Rule 28-106.201, Florida Administrative Code. This petition must be received by the Director, Division of Records and Reporting, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, by the close of business on October 23, 2000.

In the absence of such a petition, this order shall become final and effective upon the issuance of a Consummating Order.

Any objection or protest filed in this docket before the issuance date of this order is considered abandoned unless it satisfies the foregoing conditions and is renewed within the specified protest period.