**Nomination of Jeff Neuman for ICANN Community Excellence Award 2020**

Candidates will be evaluated by a panel of ICANN community members appointed by the SO/AC chairs using a merit-based point system, using three criteria:

1. Demonstrates an ability to work across community lines with both familiar and unfamiliar ICANN stakeholders with the aim of building consensus.

The following Stakeholder Groups and Constituencies join together to nominate Jeff Neuman for the ICANN Community Excellence Award 2020: Registry Stakeholder Group (RySG), Intellectual Property Constituency (IPC). In making this award we believe that Jeff Neuman embodies the collaborative spirit that makes the ICANN multistakeholder model what it is. We are all involved in and impacted by the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP, which the GNSO Council resolved on 17 December 2015 to initiate. In the more than four years since, “SubPro” has come to affect and involve all parts of the ICANN community. The challenges inherent in a review and further development of the New gTLD Applicant Guidebook are evident from the PDP’s charter; the success of any outcomes of the PDP absolutely depend on a truly inclusive PDP membership and approach by its leaders. The SubPro PDP email archive begins in early February, 2016 after the GNSO Council approved its charter. The third message in that archive is a message from Jeff Neuman, who immediately provided leadership, initiative, and inclusiveness: “Just writing to see if we were working on setting up an initial call or meeting schedule? It would be great to meet a couple of times prior to ICANN 55 (which is less than a month away)? There is a lot of work for us to do in this group. I know Paul McGrady is the interim chair and as one of the former Discussion Group co-chairs, I would be happy to volunteer to assist Paul. I look forward to working with you all in this group.” This immediately set an inclusive tone for the Working Group. Jeff’s willingness to serve as a chair of the PDP was immediately and warmly received. Jeff led efforts to ensure inclusiveness from the start, both structurally (in seeking wide representation beyond the GNSO in the leadership of the various workstreams, most notably Work Track 5, where the 4 co-leads came from each of the GNSO, ccNSO, ALAC and GAC) and substantively (for example, in arranging the webinar on geographic names and related policy to provide a base level of common understanding for all members). Jeff welcomed and has worked seamlessly with Cheryl Langdon Orr, PDP co-chair representing the ALAC, and the twelve co-leads of the five PDP Work Tracks. The SubPro PDP is notable in many ways, including the size of its membership (193 members, 70 observers) and the diversity represented across its leaders and members. As the PDP reaches the milestone of its Proposed Final Report, it is both timely and very much deserved to acknowledge Jeff’s exemplary leadership and contribution to this outcome.

1. Facilitates dialogue and open discussion in a fair and collegial manner through the spirit of collaboration, showing empathy and demonstrating a sincere desire to engage with people from other backgrounds, cultures, and interests.

It is important to recall that the inclusiveness, spirit of collaboration and collegiality of the SubPro PDP were the product of its leadership, not its charter. Unlike the case of the EPDP, the GNSO Council did not mandate representativeness in SubPro’s membership or leadership. Nor did the GNSO Council take such an engaged or proactive stance in SubPro’s progress or working methods. We owe much of the success of the SubPro PDP to the unique initiatives proposed by Jeff as its co-chair. For example, the representativeness and collaborative spirit in Work Track 5 provided inspiration for the composition and working methods of the EPDP. Some of PDP3.0’s most significant recommended improvements have their origin in ideas which Jeff championed in SubPro. Without any major oversight from the GNSO Council, Jeff has led the WG by example, showing empathy and concern when discussions got heated, proposing interactive breakout-type sessions at ICANN public meetings as a means of brokering consensus on the most entrenched issues, and always making himself available in the service of reaching a common understanding and acceptance.

1. Demonstrates additional support for the ICANN multistakeholder model and its overall effectiveness through volunteer service via working groups or committees.

Jeff is one of the ICANN community’s most ardent and heartfelt champions of the multistakeholder model. Jeff is one of the PDP’s most ardent and heartfelt advocates. He chaired the GNSO Working Group responsible for developing the GNSO PDP (which forms Annex A to the ICANN Bylaws) and the related PDP Manual (which forms part of the GNSO Operating Procedures), and has mentored many of today’s PDP leaders (as evidenced most recently by the SubPro PDP co-leaders) in the professionalization of knowledge of these key procedures and requirements. He has mentored each of the leaders of the SubPro PDP; based on this experience, these community members will likely go on to mentor and inspire the next future leaders. Jeff’s service to the served a full term on the GNSO Council, including a term as Vice Chair. His contributions extend well beyond the GNSO, through his advocacy for inclusiveness and his outstanding capability of cooperation. While the ICANN Bylaws mandate that the GNSO is responsible for developing policy affecting gTLDs, Jeff’s contribution has ensured that all are welcome to contribute to this policy development. His volunteer service is something of which all in the ICANN community, and certainly all in the GNSO, can all be proud, and to which we should encourage all newcomers to aspire. In this way, Jeff’s ripple in the pond of our multistakeholderism, consensus-based community will be felt long into the future, and far beyond any one PDP. We so often complain in the ICANN community, and are so quick to highlight the inefficiencies and failings of our complex and difficult model. The ICANN Community Excellence Award is an opportunity to rise above the complaining. We come together from very different Stakeholder Group and Constituency interests to make this symbolic joint nomination to demonstrate and highlight the very impact and effect of Jeff’s contribution. We believe that this award is all the more powerful when we acknowledge that those who successfully lead in building a culture of better effectiveness and efficiency have done so *in spite of* the challenges inherent in our current culture (not to mention the challenges we face from outside, such as COVID-19). As the SubPro PDP draws its work to a close in the publication later this year of its Final Report, we would be remiss not to seize the opportunity to acknowledge one of ICANN’s most dedicated colleagues who has succeeded in leading new participants and leaders into policy development and contributing not only to the substance of policy, but the culture that underpins it and keeps us focused on policy development and its importance to all internet stakeholders.